Dudley
CHRONICLE
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DECISION DUE ON £28m RAIL HUB

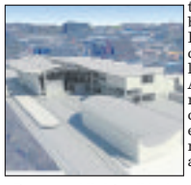
Report by David Cosgrove

LONG-AWAITED plans for a rail innovation centre in Dudley have moved a step closer after the scheme was recommended for approval by council bosses.

Outline plans for the £28 million project in Dudley's Castle Hill are due to be given the green light by councillors on Monday.

The Very Light Rail Innovation Centre and testing track is part of a scheme by Warwick Manufacturing Group, which struck a deal with Dudley Council two years ago.

Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021. Dudley Council's cabinet member for leisure, Khurshid Ahmed, said: "This new innovation centre will be an example of Dudley making history once again.



Proposed light rail hub

"We want to be at the forefront of innovation and that new technology created at the centre will help transport not just nationally but also internationally. This will help the people of Dudley, create jobs and will also be an iconic building for people to visit.

"Ministers are very keen for this development to happen, we've got a commitment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and are also confident we will get European funding."

Tunnel

A 'very light rail' line will run from a newly-built technology centre at the bottom of Castle Hill, through Dudley Tunnel and terminating close to Cinder Bank.

The site was last used as British Rail freightliner depot but closed during the late 1980s, as well as housing Dudley railway station, which closed in the mid 1960s.

The council report states: "The proposal would retain provision for the Metro line, passenger and rail freight. It is considered that the proposed development would have no undue harm on the historic environment. The development will also contribute towards delivery of council plan priorities such as regeneration, jobs, education and health."

A statement on the Very Light Rail (VLR) website says: "The Innovation Centre will serve as a hub for industry and academia. There is a lot of potential for VLR vehicles to be used on disused branch lines across the UK."

POWER OF HOPE UNITES MALALA AND ARCHBISHOP

Malala Yousafzai and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spoke at the Power of Hope event at Dudley College on Saturday

'BELIEVE in yourself and dream beyond limits' – that was the message to young people from teenager Malala Yousafzai as she spoke with the Archbishop of Canterbury in Dudley.

The 19-year-old, who survived an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen in Pakistan four years ago and is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke passionately about education, women's rights, religion and faith in front of audience at Dudley College on Saturday.

Malala, who now lives in Birmingham, said she wanted her appearance alongside Archbishop Justin Welby to be a message of 'religious and cultural harmony' that would inspire young people, especially women, to stand up for what they believed.

She told the audience at the Power of Hope event at the college that she decided to make a stand demanding that girls be allowed to receive an education in 2009 after the Taliban banned girls from attending school in her home province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"I knew if I couldn't get my education, I couldn't get on with my life," she said.

Malala began blogging for the BBC but her views led to her being shot in the head by a gunman on her school bus on October 9, 2012. She was airlifted to Birmingham, where she was treated for life-threatening injuries at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Since her recovery she has become an advocate for girls' education and women's rights, speaking around the globe.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby spoke of his admiration for Malala and how her faith and belief in education had inspired her determination.

The following day the sound of hymns filled Merry Hill when the Archbishop was joined by the Bishop of Dudley Graham Usher and Bishop of Worcester John Inge for a songs of praise style service at the shopping centre.

The Black Country leg of the Archbishop's three-day tour of the Diocese of Worcester also included a visit to a refugee support project at Halesowen United Reformed Church and a meeting with Dudley Interfaith Network.

The Archbishop also enjoyed a pint at Ma Pardoe's in Netherton.

COLLISION

Man dies in hospital after being hit by car

A PEDESTRIAN has died after being struck by a car in Stourbridge.

The 35-year-old man died after the incident on High Street, Amblecote, near to Vicarage Road at around 2.35pm on Sunday. He was treated at the scene by paramedics but died in hospital later that day.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "The driver of the car stopped at the scene and is assisting officers with the investigation.

Witnesses are asked to contact Sgt Wood and his team by calling 101.

ATTACK

Two arrests made over street stabbing

DUDLEY was rocked by two stabbings over the weekend. Two boys, aged 14 and 15, were arrested in connection with a suspected knife attack in Sedgley High Street on Sunday night. An 18-year-old man was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition.

Officers were also called at 5.35pm on Saturday to a stabbing at Shadwell Drive, Lower Gornal. A 22-year-old man was taken to hospital in a stable condition. Three 15-year-old boys were arrested then released on police bail.

YOUTH

Children's home set to close down

A CHILDREN'S home in Brierley Hill is to close. Parkes Street Children's Home will shut following a review, in a move saving Dudley Council £670,000 a year.

The size and location of the building was said to be unsuitable for children's needs. The council also said calls to police to deal with incidents at the six-bed home had reached an 'unacceptable level'.

The home was closed temporarily in April and bosses at Dudley Council have now decided it should shut for good – putting 73 jobs at risk. Chiefs said discussions would take place with trade unions and staff regarding the closure.

INSIDE

BRIERLEY HILL'S GOT TALENT

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Teenage football thug put behind bars

Daniel Lloyd – locked up

A TEENAGE thug from Sedgley who was part of a gang of yobs who attacked a football fan and left him for dead after a Wolves match has been locked up for two years.

Daniel Lloyd, 19, punched Watford supporter Nic Cruwys, causing him to trip and hit his head on the ground in Littles Lane in the city.

Mr Cruwys had been supporting his team in their clash at Molineux on March 7 last year. Lloyd, who was one of six convicted for the attack, was identified after police recognised him.

Prosecutor David Lee told Wolverhampton Crown Court how the officers stopped Lloyd and asked for his details during a routine procedure before a previous match.

Mr Lee also told the court how Lloyd had sent text messages to his associates to try to silence them and had hidden his phone. He said: "There were messages which he sent encouraging people not to talk about the attack, because he knew the police would be able to use the evidence against him. He stopped using the phone, and it was found hidden away.

"There are messages on the phone dating back to January of that year in which he arranges to meet up with other fans for potential violent activity. He sent a message to someone saying how he had been fined £90 for a public disorder offence in another area where Wolves were playing."

Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, admitted causing grievous bodily harm. He was also handed an eight-year football banning order.

Defence barrister James Wilson accepted the attack was pre-meditated and there was no excuse. He asked the judge to consider his age and claimed Lloyd has since changed his ways.

I was forced out of school says ex-governor

A FORMER school governor claims he was removed from his post for 'speaking out' against Dudley Council's decision to close a neighbouring school and move pupils to others.

Sedgley councillor Michael Evans is no longer a governor at Dormston School after 16 years.

This follows a campaign to stop students joining from Coseley School, which will be closed by the council in August 2017.

Councillor Evans said he was removed because he had 'spoken against' the council's decision to 'force students' on Dormston from Coseley School. More than 80 former Coseley pupils were taken on at Dormston at the start of this school year.

Councillor Evans said: "Dudley Council has removed me because I spoke out against the authority's decision to close Coseley School and force pupils on Dormston.

"I was given two options to resign or be removed from the post. I wasn't resigning because I felt what I had done wasn't wrong. I believe the most important job as a governor is to protect the students and education of the school, and that is what I feel I have done throughout. With Dudley Council trying to force children on Dormston School, it will affect the education of the children they have there.

Appealed

"I will be keeping a close eye on the situation. If issues arise at Dormston School because the quality of education drops, then I will be going back to Dudley Council about it."

Councillor Evans was notified that he was to be 'relieved of his post' at the end of the summer term. He appealed but 'an independent panel upheld the council's decision', council bosses said.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services said: "The role of a local authority governor is to work with the local authority in partnership with local schools and to commit to the education of all children in the borough, not just those attending a single school.

"All of our governors, be they parent, co-opted or local authority, agree to abide by a code of conduct, which if breached can result in their removal from the post."

Give five to help sight charity thrive

Fundraiser Rachel Stretton, of Sedgley, holds one of the new plastic £5 notes at the Beacon Centre for the Blind

PEOPLE who get their hands on a crisp new plastic fiver are being urged to donate it to help people suffering blindness.

The Beacon Centre is the latest charity to get involved in a social media craze which has seen people donating their first brand new notes to good causes.

There has been a surge of people taking to Twitter to donate the first of the new £5 notes they receive using the hashtags #firstfivers and #fivergiver.

The Beacon Centre's head of enterprise Tracey Ford said: "The services provided by the charity across the region are vital for people living with sight loss, young or old.

"A £5 donation would pay for one of our service users to go on a tandem cycling session, so it's money that could make a real difference to people who are living with sight loss in your community."

The appeal comes after cash machines, banks and post offices around the UK started dishing out the new plastic £5 notes.

The new note went on to trigger a social media trend dubbed #FiverGiver with the public urged to donate the first note they receive to their charity of choice – and shout about it online.

The movement started when Twitter user and corporate fundraising consultant, Johnny Five, challenged his followers to take on the challenge. To donate your £5 to Beacon, text BEACO5 £5 to 70070.

Police warn to watch out for lottery ticket scam

CONMEN are duping people into handing over jewellery and large sums of cash by promising to sell them a 'winning' lottery ticket worth millions of pounds in the Black Country and elsewhere in the West Midlands.

Several reports have been made to West Midlands Police about two men claiming they have a winning ticket, and offering to sell it to members of the public for cash and goods up front.

Victims in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Birmingham and Coventry contacting police after they were hoodwinked.

Immigrants

A statement from police said: "We have noticed an increase in reports of people being approached in the street by two men, who are claiming to be illegal immigrants who have a winning lottery ticket.

"They state they can't cash their ticket in for values up to £33 million due to their immigration status, but they can offer their ticket for sale.

"The men ask for cash up front and in some instances even offer to drive people to a cash point to withdraw money.

"The tactics of these people are well rehearsed and are very convincing."

Police warn people that if they are approached by anyone trying to scam then, report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call the anti-fraud team on 0300 123 2040.

Rap star Drake has Arena dates

TICKETS range in price from just over £63 to £145 for concerts by top rapper Drake that have been announced for the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on February 22 and 23.

Tickets go on sale for the two concerts by the Grammy-award winning R&B star from Canada, real name Aubrey Drake Graham, tomorrow (Friday) from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Meanwhile, 1990s girl band All Saints have got back together for a new album and tour, calling at Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Sunday evening South African singer Belinda Davids brings her tribute The Whitney Houston Show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Academy expansion set for go-ahead

PLANS to expand a Tipton secondary school were set to get the go-ahead yesterday (Wednesday), boosting pupil numbers by nearly 300. Sandwell planners were being urged to give the green light to a new building with 18 classrooms at RSA Academy, in Bilston Road.

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Elderly are being urged to go get the flu jab

OVER 65s across the Dudley borough are being urged to get their free flu jabs before winter sets in.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is reminding residents that jabs are not for life and as viruses change each year so does the vaccination.

The drive to get the community winter ready will help save many people from illness.

Dr Steve Mann, GP and clinical executive at Dudley CCG, said: "Flu is a really nasty illness, particularly for those over 65.

"You are more likely to become seriously ill and have problems like pneumonia or make a current illness or condition worse if you don't get the jab."

Dr Mann added that getting a jab was quick and easy, saying: "All it takes is a quick visit to your GP surgery."

The flu season is between September and March and the vaccine is available now.

Residents should look out for a letter, email or text from their GP telling them about the dates and times of their flu clinics.

People are eligible for a free flu vaccination if they are pregnant, 65 years of age or over, or have certain medical conditions, which include people suffering from asthma or other respiratory conditions.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/staywell

Paper boy beaten by gang of seven

A 14-year-old Dudley boy was attacked by seven teenagers on his way home from a newspaper round had to be treated in hospital.

Marshall Hunton, from Wrens Nest, was left with a black eye, swollen jaw and cuts to his head after the terrifying assault.

His father, Matthew Hunton, said: "Marshall has been doing a paper round for some months now and when he didn't return home on time I was worried as to where he was.

"He got jumped on by seven lads in a gully. They never took anything from him but just attacked him. There was no reason."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Artist Geoff to talk about career

ARTIST and cartoonist Geoff Tristram is to talk about his career at Dudley Library. Mr Tristram, of Wollaston, talks about 40 years Watching Paint Dry on October 25 at 2.30pm. Tickets £3 on (01384) 815560.

Former Imam guilty of indecent assaults

A RELIGIOUS leader who carried out sex attacks on two young girls at his mosque faces jail.

Hafiz Rahman, who was the Imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath, has been found guilty of five out of seven charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He was cleared of the other two.

The 58-year-old, of Ballard Road, Netherton, sexually assaulted the girls at the mosque in a string of attacks between March 1986 and August 1987.

The victims, who were aged under 10 at the time, had gone to the mosque for religious studies.

They had described to the jury how they were touched sexually by Rahman.

One woman broke down as she explained how she found it hard to understand what was happening. She was only six-years-old when the attack happened.

She told police: "I felt morally obliged to do the right thing."

The jury reached unanimous verdicts at the end of the five-day trial on five of the charges.

Custodial

Judge Nicholas Cartwright said Rahman should expect an immediate custodial sentence due to the nature of the charges, though the defendant was not in court to hear the verdicts after Mr Tariq Shakoor, defending, informed the judge that Rahman was ill.

Judge Cartwright added sentencing should take place on a date to be arranged once Rahman had made a full recovery.

Detective Constable Liz Skyte from West Midland Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "The abuse started with inappropriate touching but escalated to more serious assaults.

"The first complainant told us how the abuse happened almost daily but she never told anyone as due to his high standing in the community, she thought she would not be believed."

He ruled the father of seven and grandfather of 10 should also sign the Sex Offenders Register as soon as possible.

Rahman, who had a Bengali interpreter, did not give evidence himself during the trial.

Language test delaying arrival of Filipino nurses

THERE are delays in nurses from the Philippines starting work at Dudley Group NHS Trust because they haven't passed English language tests.

More than 130 recruits from the Far East had been expected to start work next month, but at a meeting of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's board it was revealed only nine have passed their IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test, and they aren't likely to start at the trust until March.

During the meeting chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We've had nine Filipino nurses pass the IELTS and they are currently going through the visa process, but there are still 80 plus waiting.

"We've provided them with additional support, with a training programme out in the Philippines to help them with the English language test. We are pushing to get these nurses here for March – there is an additional cost for April 1."

Ms Wardell also said that there were approximately 100 vacancies currently at the trust, although they had not had the latest figures in terms of leavers and starters.

Recruitment

Asked after the meeting on Thursday for further details on the delay, Ms Wardell said: "Recruiting from overseas is a lengthy process and it is frustrating that it is taking longer than anticipated to start our new recruits in post.

"After their initial interview, overseas candidates must pass a rigorous IELTS English language test followed by the CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) computer competence test via the NMC (Nursing & Midwifery Council). Once passed, they then begin their visa application.

"After they arrive in the UK, candidates must then pass a practical competence test via the NMC.

"The nine candidates from the Philippines are now taking their computer literacy tests."

Among those to express concern on the board was Andrew McMenemy, director of Human Resources at the trust.

"We are putting a significant amount of energy going into this and its still not bearing fruit," he said during the meeting. "We might be better putting our energy into something more localised."

MP has a hoot as new patron

MP Gavin Williamson with Graham Morley, principal of South Staffordshire College, and Barny the owl

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has been named as the patron of the World Owl Trust.

As Kinver's Conservative MP Mr Williamson was formally awarded the new role, he also received a £3,000 donation from South Staffordshire College towards the trust's new £1 million centre at Himley Hall. The money will help pay for two out of 60 aviaries to be built at the venue. It is expected to open next summer.

Alan Peace, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "Gavin has been very good to us. He has been physically helping us on site at Himley to clear the jungle in readiness for the building work.

"The £3,000 donation from the college will be a tremendous benefit to the trust which at the moment has very limited income."

The World Owl Trust was previously based at Muncaster Castle in Cumbria, but was told it had to leave. Currently 84 birds are kept at the college's Rodbaston Campus in Penkridge with around 100 at other sites. Once the new centre is open at Himley it will be home to all of the trust's owl species.

Mr Peace added: "It is a major project because a lot of the work of the trust is around education within communities and this new centre will be accessible to 1,500 schools"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Getting lit up for the festive season

THE annual Christmas lights switch on at the Merry Hill shopping centre will take place in October.

The event, featuring a programme of live entertainment has taken place on November 14 for the last two years, but it will be staged more than a fortnight earlier this time on October 28. Further details of the event have yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that wheelchair tennis ace Jordanne Whiley MBE will do the honour of switching on her home town's Christmas lights on November 19.

Potential buyer for market hall

BRIERLEY Hill's historic market hall looks set to be sold within weeks, it has been revealed.

Discussions with a potential new owner of the landmark High Street building are said to be at an advanced stage.

The building was put up for sale in May by the family firm which have owned it for generations. It is believed it could sell for as much as £1 million.

Market hall manager Wayne Jones said he did not expect the imminent sale to affect the town's indoor market.

Petition to save store is growing

THE petition set up to save Sainsbury's in Merry Hill has now been signed more than 260 concerned shoppers.

Supermarket bosses had earmarked the long-established store for closure on December 30, leaving 193 jobs at risk, after saying that branch is 'underperforming'.

But the petitioners question how the store can be unprofitable, saying 'thousands shop there every week'. It opened in 1989.

Work begins on new HQ for castings firm

MANUFACTURING firm Thomas Dudley has started work on a new multi-million-pound head office.

Based on the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, the company produces castings and high quality bathroom fittings.

The company is still owned by the Dudley family who founded the business in 1920, and it now employs around 350 people. The company has outgrown its current office block, built in the 1970s.

Water burst delays

MOTORISTS faced delays in the Black Country after a water main burst in Coseley on Monday.

The main in Vicarage Road ruptured at around 4pm.

The burst closed the street between the Birmingham New Road and Central Drive.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

TWO institutions. Both depend on public donations. Both help people let down by government agencies. So why is Children in Need a national treasure of which we are proud, but food banks are a national disgrace of which we are ashamed?

TV switches from programmes to adverts with no warning. One moment we were wincing in horror at the young sheep with a huge, shiny, prolapsed rectum in The Yorkshire Vet (C5), the next we were invited to try a gourmet break in a Yorkshire hotel, featuring tender, glistening burgers. I bet they didn't get many inquiries.

ALL the political parties are pledged to build more homes. So where will they go? I drove across to Cambridge this week and then back via Bedford. It was like one vast new housing estate. I lost count of the number of part-built streets, gobbling up meadows which have been farmed for a thousand years. The irony is that having destroyed all vestiges of Saxon farming, developers choose names such as Saxon Way.

WHOPPER of the week as the nation's emails crashed yet again: "Yahoo! Will be right back. Our engineers are working quickly to resolve the issue." Depends how you define "quickly," doesn't it?

I BET there is not a woman in the land who doesn't not understand why Diane James stood down as the leader of Ukip only 18 days after being elected. It is an impossible position. If you fail, you will be denounced and vilified. If you succeed, you'll have to have another kiss from Nigel Farage.

I LOVE the latest suggestion from Whitehall that restaurants serving huge pudding portions should be "named and shamed" in the fight against obesity. But if eateries decided to reduce pudding portions for the common good, what would happen next? We have seen it with punters who avoid high prices for pub and club booze by "preloading" beforehand with a bottle or two of vodka. I can imagine serious noshers stuffing themselves with pudding before even arriving at the restaurant. Behold, a new social evil, pre-loading on spotted dick.

MANGLED metaphors in Birmingham. If you believe everything you heard from Conservative leaders, the way ahead is going to be a stormy sea and a rough ride with many bumps in the road and a bit of a rollercoaster. After the Tory Conference should we be travelling by boat, car or fairground ride? I think I'll be packing my trusty pogo-stick, just in case the grapes of wrath come home to roost.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plans to give residents a bigger say

RESIDENTS will get more of a say on future developments in their area when a new consultation scheme on planning is launched.

Dudley Council wants people on the ground to speak up about planning projects across the borough.

The scheme will mean more opportunities to comment on applications, greater influence on developments and the ability to help shape plans.

Residents are being urged to comment on the council's draft Statement of Community Involvement. The document sets out the council's commitment to give people a greater say.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is about giving people a greater say about where they live and work. Through the recommendations of the Statement of Community Involvement, we are hoping to give people the opportunity to have more say than ever before on how their neighbourhoods are developed, and people should take this opportunity to get involved."

The draft document sets out how the council intends to get people more involved in the planning process. This includes social media and helping people draw up plans for their own area.

The council is also considering ways of working more closely with community groups, especially young people.

The consultation is now open and runs until November 28. To get involved visit www.dudley.gov.uk website

Life-saving officers to receive top honour

By David Cosgrove

TWO Black Country police officers who fought a life and death battle to bring a suicidal man back from the brink of death after finding him hanging at his home have been awarded top life-saving honours.

Pcs Andrew Farmer and Daniel Hackett are to receive Royal Humane Society resuscitation certificates for reviving the man after they found him hanging from the loft hatch at his Quarry Bank home and cut him down.

In addition to the awards they are to receive they have also won the personal praise of Royal Humane Society secretary, Dick Wilkinson.

As he announced the awards at the Society's London headquarters, Mr Wilkinson said: "Time was of the absolute essence in this situation. The police had received a call that the man had threatened to hang himself. Pcs Farmer and Hackett went to his home in Quarry Bank and found him hanging from a loft hatch in a back bedroom.

Recovery

"He appeared to be dead but Pc Farmer cut him down while PC Hackett took his weight. He had no vital signs but Pc Farmer began administering chest compressions while Pc Hacket gave him the kiss-of-life. Thankfully he began to breathe again and has since gone on to make a full recovery.

"But if the two officefs had not arrived when they did, this incident could have had a very different and tragic outcome. They richly deserve the awards."

No date has yet been fixed for presentation of the awards which have been made following a recommendation from West Midlands Police, which stated: "Both officers acted quickly and effectively. Their intervention and expertise undoubtedly prevented the man's death."

Invitation to Simon and his BGT pals

Simon Cowell look-alike Andy Monk, of Dudley, ready for Britain's Got Talent auditions at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

BRITAIN'S Got Talent fans are being urged to help bring Simon Cowell and his fellow judges to Brierley Hill Civic Hall when auditions are staged for the TV show.

Bosses at the civic hall want people to use the Twitter hashtag #getsimontobrierleyhill when talking about the auditions online.

James Challis, the venue's general manager, said: "So far we've had no confirmation that any of the main stars are coming but we're trying to get them here. We would love that. The more that people create interest then the more chances there is. Use #getsimontobrierleyhill on Twitter or tweet him direct asking for him to attend."

In the event Mr Cowell doesn't show up Civic bosses have also hired a lookalike to promote the event. There has been a massive reaction to the news the town will be hosting auditions, with an initial post about the event being viewed more than 130,000 times on social media.

Tickets for the auditions, on October 25, sold out within 24 hours, and another talent show has been organised to give everyone the chance to perform.

Mr Challis said: "I think we were expecting a lot of interest but didn't expect it to get quite as big as it did. So we've decided to run Brierley Hill's Got Talent the following day. Although they won't have the chance to progress onto Britain's Got Talent we are promoting it with a £500 prize." Anyone wanting to enter should email boxoffice@bhillcivic.co.uk

Engineering firm gears up to fulfil more orders

AN ENGINEERING firm in Dudley has invested in new machinery to increase its production capacity with the support of a £500,000 funding package from Lloyds Bank.

Established in 1919, Moseley Brothers specialises in the design and manufacturing of pressed metal parts and tooling for the automotive, domestic appliance and aerospace markets.

Customers include Jaguar Land Rover and JCB. Following an increase in demand for its products as a result of its growing target markets, the business approached long-term banking provider Lloyds Bank.

The bank's commercial finance team provided an asset finance facility which allowed the business to buy two new power press machines to manufacture components and prove tooling.

As a result, the firm's production capacity has increased by 20 per cent, and its annual turnover is now expected to increase from £3 million to £5 million in the next two years.

The business' most recent investment follows on from its move to a 34,000 sq ft site on Narrowboat Way in September 2015, which was also funded by Lloyds Bank.

The relocation gave it the space for additional machinery which meant Moseley could meet rising demand from both existing and new clients.

In line with its expansion, the business has employed twelve new members of staff, bringing its total headcount to 40 people.

Teenage markets across borough

AN ICONIC Black Country building will next month host a teenage market, the first of several in Dudley borough.

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone is preparing for the market on Saturday and Sunday, November 26 and 27.

It will be the second time the market has been hosted by the attraction, with stalls from 13 to 23-year-olds to include jewellery, cakes, photography, crafts and festive gifts.

The markets will also take place at Netherton Arts Centre on Saturday, November 12, and at The Moor Centre in Brierley Hill on Saturday, December 3.

The events will also feature performances from talented young people.

To book a stall or a performing slot, visit www.theteenagemarket.co.uk

Man, 22, to appear in court after robbery

A 22-year-old man has been charged in connection with the alleged robbery of the One Stop shop in Swan Lake, Wordsley. Andrew Faux, of Campbell Street, Brockmoor, is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 28.

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Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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TV antiques experts to help hospice fundraiser

STARS of the BBC TV's Antique Roadshow, Fake Britain and Flog It! TV programmes are hosting an antique valuation day in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Will Farmer (Antiques Roadshow and Fake Britain) and Nick Davies (Flog It!), will be joined by their colleagues from Fieldings Auctioneers at Hogarths Stone Manor tomorrow (Friday).

They will be valuing objects and treasured items in exchange for a suggested donation of £1 to the Hagley Road hospice.

The event will run from 10am to 2pm at the Kidderminster venue with food and refreshments available throughout the day.

Dan Malin, of the Mary Stevens Hospice said: "It's a fantastic event for us to be associated with, and something a bit different for our supporters to get involved in.

"We all love the idea that our bits and bobs up in the loft might turn out to be worth a small fortune, so to have the opportunity to find out from such prestigious experts, while supporting local families, has got us and our community very excited.

"We're incredibly grateful both to Fieldings for arranging such a fantastic event and to Stone Manor for providing such a beautiful backdrop."

For more information or to browse the catalogue,visit www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk and to find out more about the care provided by Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marysteven shospice.co.uk website.

Fire star veteran to light up stage

VETERAN 1960s rocker Arthur Brown brings Fire to the Black Country next week.

The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, best known for 1968 chart-topper Fire, brings his fire helmet theatrics to the Robin 2, Bilston, next Thursday (October 20). Whitby-born Brown recently released a new album Zim Zam Zim and won Classic Rock Magazine Showman of The Year award. Tickets are £16 on the door. The 'God of Hell Fire' will be on stage from 9.30pm.

Meanwhile, San Francisco band The Tubes, who had a hit in the 1970s with White Punks On Dope, will bring their Mondo Pulp Tour to the Robin 2 on Tuesday. Tickets are £22.50 advance and £25 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or see www.therobin.co.uk

National award for pharmacist

A COMMUNITY pharmacist in Dudley, Olutayo Arikawe, has been chosen as the national winner of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's I Love My Pharmacist Award. She works at The Priory Community Pharmacy.

Metro extension will boost borough

Artist's view of Metro at Dudley Port

"IMPROVING transport across Dudley and the Black Country is absolutely essential, both for residents and also to attract businesses into the area."

The words of Dudley South MP Mike Wood, as the long-awaited Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Midland Metro extension looks set to go ahead.

After nearly two decades in the making, the extension at last looks to be coming to fruition with work expected to start next year.

The scheme was first mooted back in 2003. A design statement about the proposed extension was created by Centro – forerunner to the West Midlands Combined Authority as the region's transport authority.

It said: "The scheme will provide a step-change improvement in the quality of public transport services offered in the transport corridor between Wednesbury, Dudley and Brierley Hill providing faster journey times and offering new journey opportunities.

"The scheme will provide the opportunity for easily accessing employment, education and leisure activities through improved public transport facilities linking Dudley town centre and Brierley Hill town centre with Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Conservative MP Mr Wood was delighted at the progress. He said: "This Metro extension would make it much easier for people to get across our region and will link in with the HS2 plan.

"For the past 50 years Dudley, Brierley Hill and Kingswinford haven't had a railway station and haven't been on the rail network – even though this borough has one of the largest shopping centres in Europe."

Food banks prepare for bigger winter demand

FOOD banks across the Black Country are preparing for a busy winter – even though many supermarket prices have come down.

The Black Country Food Bank, which operates at 19 sites across the region, is anticipating an increase in visitors.

The festive period is its busiest time, according to partnership worker Emma Crook.

The Black Country Food Bank is expecting about 18,000 asking for help at the end of this year, an increase on last year when 16,000 called for assistance. It was 20,000 the year before that.

Ms Crook said the changes in demand from their user were down to a host of different factors, including the economy and a loss in links with other agencies .

"As the cold sets in, for some people it is the choice between heating or eating," she said.

"And then at Christmas some people overstretch themselves, so when they are hit by a surprise, it can leave them without any money.

"After a quiet summer, we are expecting a busier winter time and an increase in visitors from last year."

Crisis

The food bank organisation has about 100 volunteers. It helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of three days' emergency food supplies.

Users get vouchers to pick up the supplies, which include fruit and vegetables, to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The vouchers are given by agencies helping people in emergencies. People can use the vouchers three times in a row.

The food is donated by church groups, businesses and the supermarkets.

The Black Country Food Bank is run from premises in Brierley Hill.

Last month the group announced a shortage, asking for more cereal, tinned fruit and toiletries.

Meanwhile, according to the mySupermarket Groceries Tracker, many grocery itmes are cheaper compared to last year at supermarkets.

Compared with September last year, broccoli is now 29 per cent cheaper, bananas cost 11 per cent less, frozen fish fingers are down eight per cent and onions are down 20 per cent. MySupermarket chief executive Gilad Simhony said: "We are also seeing both consumer confidence and prices stabilising, which is a positive sign."

Absolutely chipper – John (left) and Zach Ioannou (right) with Sav Martignetti at Oldswinford Fish and Chips, on Hagley Road, Stourbridge

Chippy cooks up regional success

A BLACK Country fish and chip shop has seen off the competition from across the region to be named the best in the Midlands.

Judges were wowed by the quality of the fish and chips on offer at Oldswinford Fish and Chips, on Hagley Road.

It was crowned as the top chippy in the Midlands category of the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year, organised by Seafish.

It will now go up against other regional winners from across the country in a bid to win the national title, judged in January.

Menu

The chippy was also judged in a range areas including menu, customer experience and staff training.

Co-owner Zach Ioannou said: "Our shop has been in our family for over 39 years, but we re-branded to Oldswinford Fish and Chips in 2012 when my brother John and I took over. We've established a loyal customer base. This year's success comes as long-awaited recognition."

The chippy was first opened by their father Andreas in 1977.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zoo folks focus on Hocus Pocus

BRAVE youngsters are invited to Dudley Zoological Gardens for their Hocus Pocus evenings.

They can dress up in their spookiest costumes to watch Dippy's Halloween Show and participate in ghoulish games. There will also be some close encounters with a variety of creepy critters and a visit to the haunted cottag.

The Hocus Pocus evenings are taking place on October 27 and 28. Tickets are £9 with children under three free. Visit dudleyzoo.org.uk or call (01384) 215313.

Change of date for pub festival

A LYE pub has switched the dates for its street food and beer festival.

The event at The Shovel Inn, Pedmore Road, was due to have been held last weekend but will now take place this weekend, from last night (Thursday) to Saturday.

There will be a dozen street food stalls and a choice of 12 cask and four keg ales offered inside.

Special gins and fruit wines will also be on sale at the free admission festival.

The food will be available until 10pm each day.

Sundial installed at revamped park

A SUNDIAL was this week being unveiled as part of a £3.1m project to improve a park.

It is being placed at Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge.

The sundial was originally in the town centre but it became damaged in the 1970s. It has since been found and repaired and was being unveiled on Monday. The project has included work to the gates, war memorial, bandstand and cafe with £2.6m from Heritage Lottery Fund.

Halloween trails for family half term fun

CHILDREN can enjoy Halloween trails in Netherton and Brierley Hill.

Trails can be picked up from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries during the half-term holiday that will lead families around the two town centres with clues to solve for entry in a prize draw for a family ticket to Himley Hall bonfire and fireworks.

Netherton Library will host Halloween tales and crafts at 11am on October 28, and Brierley Hill Library at 1pm the following day.

Fewer phone offences

THE numbers of drivers caught on their mobile phones behind the wheel in the West Midlands has dropped by more than half in five years, according to new figures.

West Midlands Police handed out fines to 6,694 drivers in 2011/12. This reduced to 2,818 last year.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Colourful language for the 'too close' car

HUMBLE pie time. A few weeks ago I said the reason modern technology was so boring was down to the fact that anything that served any useful purpose had already been invented, and that supposedly new developments were mostly either gimmicks or variations on an old theme.

But then along come those crazy South Koreans to prove me wrong, with the invention we have all been waiting for.

Kiss On The Road is a set of paint nodules which have been fitted to a little Hyundai hatchback, which sprays messages onto the road behind.

Its creators suggest that eventually it could be used to spray road safety messages, such as alerting drivers behind to a crash ahead, but to begin with it is most likely to be used by the advertising industry.

They're missing a trick. If I bought one, it wouldn't be to sell anything, or to tell the people behind me to wear a seatbelt or inform them that tiredness kills. But it would be deployed every time somebody in a mid-range German saloon car feels the need to drive within six inches of my back bumper on the motorway flashing their headlights.

I think "back off" painted in large letters on the bonnet would communicate the message beautifully...

❒❒❒

IMAGINE you are elderly or vulnerable, or maybe a mother out with two young children. How would you feel if some juvenile delinquent in a creepy clown's mask jumped out brandishing a plastic knife?

This latest craze has already led to a 13-year-old boy being arrested in West Bromwich, and I don't suppose he will be the last.

What is it with these people? Can't they just stick to skulking in darkened bedrooms slaying zombies on their computers, or whatever it is they do?

Sooner or later one of them will come a cropper and pick on the wrong person, and my gut reaction is it would serve them right.

However, I bet they will be the first to go squealing to the law if anyone lays a finger on them. They will probably say it's a hate crime.

❒❒❒

AM I the only one who is sick of hearing embittered EU supporters complaining that they don't know what Brexit looks like?

Surely that is the point. It is about the freedom to shape our nation, without interference from the former president of Luxembourg.

If the political establishment don't know what Brexit looks like, perhaps they should do what they are paid for and come up with some ideas. Then we will tell them whether we like it or not.

The Duchess of Cambridge hands a medal to Mr Yarrington

War veterans and amputees gathered at Hednesford Town

Prince Harry has a chat with Sapper Clive Smith

Night to celebrate heroes of conflict

A sum of £2,000 was raised as veterans relived some of their most traumatic experiences. JESSICA LABHART reports

IT was night of music, smiles and celebration, even though some of those in the crowd had gone through some of the most traumatic experiences of war.

Veterans from across the West Midlands came together to share their life-changing experiences of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a charity fundraiser for Help for Heroes. The night raised more than £2,000.

It revealed some of the harrowing experiences suffered by the veterans who are still on the road to recovery.

Scott Yarrington, aged 31, of Bloxwich was in the army in 2005, with the Irish Guards. He served in Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2010. Whilst in Afghanistan on December 29, 2010, he was in charge of searching for improvised explosive devices along a bridge area when he stepped on it, losing both his legs.

Transferred

Mr Yarrington said: "I just started screaming because the pain was hitting me. I woke up in the QE hospital in Birmingham."

He spent two months in the QE, before being transferred to Headley Court – the specialist defence medical rehabilitation centre near Surrey. At the start of May 2011 he met his now fiancée Rachel Andrews, aged 28, and the pair later had son Alfie, aged three, following IVF treatment.

He is now helping young cadets learn the ropes as part of the Mercian Regiment.

His inspirational story was one of many on the night.

Clive Smith, aged 31, who lives in Walsall, also stepped on an explosive device when he was in Afghanistan on October 13, 2010. He lost both legs. Despite being conscious throughout the ordeal, Sapper Smith's main concern was the wellbeing of his comrades, who rushed to his aid as he lay bleeding in the battlefield. Within 36 hours he was flown to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Guardsman Scott Yarrington, of Bloxwich

Clive Smith from Walsall

David Watson, of Birmingham

Mr Smith, a Wolves fan originally from Cannock, was later transferred to Headley Courtand also spent time at the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall. The centre, funded by the Royal British Legion, helps sick and wounded service personnel recover.

Since having artificial legs, he has competed in the men's hand bike time trial, IHB2 class, at the Invictus Games at the Olympic Park in London. At Molineux, he has presented the match ball and been named Championship fan of the month.

In 2012 he was chosen as the face of the Royal British Legion's National Poppy Appeal.

Speaking of what it meant to be at the charity fundraiser, Mr Smith said: "I think it's important for us to come together like this to raise the profile of Help for Heroes and also to show people that there is life after serious injury. "

Dave Watson, of Birmingham, aged 30, was in Afghanistan in 2010 when he was on patrol, tasked to find an improvised explosive device. He was the 50th man in a group of 53, and turned to help a fellow solider who had fallen down. As he twisted to turn, he took a wrong step on to the explosive device. He lost both legs and his right forearm.

Mr Watson has since undergone extensive rehabilitation and has not let his injuries hold him back. After a £120,000 operation in Australia, funded by his compensation from the army, to give him high-quality prosthetic legs, he has completed 15 skydives, five abseils, and goes skiing and waterskiing. He is also a respected discus, shot put and javelin thrower. He is in training for both the Invictus Games and the Paralympic Games in 2020.

Event organiser Andy Sawyer said: "It was absolutely unbelievable, we raised £2,180.

"Half will go to Team Ditcher Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2017 in aid of Help the Heroes. We will and donating the other half to Veterans' Lifeline.

"It's not often that veterans have a chance to meet up and talk about their experiences, but also raise money for a good cause and ultimately, have a good time, so I'm really pleased with how everything has gone.."

Veterans' Lifeline has been set up by former solider Nick Perry, 41, of Liverpool who joined the army at 16 and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He set up the charity to help veterans struggling with post-traumatic-stress and other issues to overcome their difficulties."

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It's time to honour another Dudley hero

REGARDING The Duncan Edwards Memorial Plaque. As a cousin of Duncan Edwards I share the pride in his achievements voiced by Dudley MP Ian Austin.

However, I must take issue with the claims of Cllr Tyler – Duncan was not the first local footballer to make it 'to the big time', Ray Westwood (Bolton Wanderers) was capped six times for England between 1934/6.

There is a family connection between them, and Ray served in The Eighth Army during World War II, as did another former member of the Brierley Hill Schools team that spawned a number of good players, Arthur Brearley.

He and Ray met up on the advance to Rome and liberated several bottles of Chianti to reminisce.

I believe that Cllr Tyler also has ambition towards honouring another Dudley legend, Billy Dainty. My parents and his parents and his aunt and uncle were close friends. His mother made my wife's wedding bouquet at their shop in Wolverhampton Street.

I last saw Billy in his dressing room at the Pier Theatre, Great Yarmouth, in a few hours of respite during parachute/battle training at Thetford prior to the Suez crisis.

If a plaque to Billy is organised I trust they will not forget his sister Betty who spent her show business career with the Cyril Fletcher Show.

They both grew up in a house close to the junction of Burton Road and The Broadway.

TERRY BREARLEY
Kingswinford

A Grand night out with Justin

WE went to the fabulously updated Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, what a wonderful refurbishment on this wonderful Victoria theatre – well worth a visit!

We went to see the also fabulous Justin Hayward. He played for about two hours, some new songs from his new album All The Way and some of his mighty Moody Blues classics. He is a very emotional songwriter and singer.

He's a very accomplished guitarist and was backed by Mike Dawes, superb acoustic guitarist in his own right, also on stage with a lady keyboard player (sorry don't know her name) who was also excellent.

It's amazing that he can play for two hours performing mostly his own songs and material. He could have spent eight hours more as his back list is massive.

A great night all told and well worth seeing. Justin Hayward is a class act!

MICHAEL HANKIN
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Amiable Sir Terry's humour is missed

DURING my years driving as a sales representative, I remember very fondly listening to Sir Terry Wogan, just gabbling on about all sorts of 'rubbish'.

In addition to all of the housebound listeners, he kept us 'motorists' entertained.

Fondly I recall his references to the Nuneaton 'pyramids', the Northampton 'lighthouse' and the Milton Keynes 'concrete cows'.

Regarding these items, some friends and my wife and I were driving south on the M1 on our way to France for a holiday. We were keeping in touch via 'CB Radio' and I was regaling Terry's remarks about the above items. A lorry driver butted in and said 'their ain't any lighthouses in Northampton or pyramids in Nuneaton'.

I also wrote to Sir Terry about 'builders cooking their breakfasts on a shovel over their fires'. And about the Government 'laying off the millions of people who were employed to wash the glass cats eyes'. He made a great play of these items.

Terry, we miss your voice. God bless.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Testaments fit for our Duncan

MY congratulations go out to all the people involved in acknowledging one the true legends of English football.

On October 1 the blue plaque was unveiled in Dudley by another of our footballing legends Sir Bobby Charlton. It was a testament to his love of a team-mate that he made the journey to pay his own tribute to our own Duncan Edwards.

I was honoured to interview Rose Cook on the Omma n' Chain show I host for Black Country Radio and feel the obvious passion she has held for the story of the quite unique sportsman.

We hear so much about what is wrong within sport but here we can really feel there was a human being that rose above it all.

His statue and now the plaque are fitting testaments to a hero that will stay in our hearts for generations to come.

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Family is taking legal action over holiday hell

A FAMILY whose two-week holiday to the Dominican Republic was ruined by gastric illness are furious after being offered just £50 off their next trip by the travel company.

By Judith Hawkins

Kristie and Mark Hughes, from Stourbridge, are now taking legal action after they and their children Jade, aged 19, and Daniel, 11, fell ill at the four star Memories Splash Punta Cana resort.

They claim there were hygiene failings at the resort, including birds and flies hovering over food, but tour operator First Choice has only agreed to the small discount to recompense the family.

Mrs Hughes said: "We were really looking forward to the holiday and the opportunity to really relax as a family, what we experienced was anything but.

Problems

"There were problems with the hotel from the off with eggs not cooked properly, there were birds in the restaurant and flies over the food.

"Once we noticed we were so careful, but in the end it was too late."

Daniel fell ill with vomiting. The following day, Kirstie, Mark and Jade all began suffering gastric symptoms.

Mrs Hughes added: "When First Choice contacted us to offer us £50 off our next holiday we were stunned and then disgusted. It just added insult to injury."

They were so outraged at the response that the family have instructed legal firm Irwin Mitchell to take on their case.

Jatinder Paul, international personal injury lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "What the Hughes family experienced was incredibly distressing."

A First Choice spokesman said the company monitored resorts where it operated to ensure hygiene was in line with industry standards.

Black Country HQ for car restoring TV show

Fuzz Towshend (left) with presenter Tim Shaw have found a Black Country base for their hit TV show

A HIT TV show in which classic cars are restored to their former glory has launched a new base in the Black Country.

Fuzz Townshend, one of the presenters of Channel 4's Car SOS – and also the former drummer in Stourbridge based Pop Will Eat Itself – will be filming the latest series of the show at a garage unit at the Springfield industrial estate in Oldbury.

In the show, presenter Tim Shaw and former Dudley bus mechanic Fuzz take on restoration projects which have proved beyond owners' ambitions.

Townshend and business partner Dave Tassell run To-Ta Classics and have agreed a five-year lease on the 5,548 sq ft unit on the industrial estate, which is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties.

"These are exciting times. To-Ta Classics sees myself and Dave Tassell join forces in a purpose-equipped workshop – a top class classic car maintenance. It will also be the base for the next series of Car SOS," said Fuzz.

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High-five street attack thugs jailed for a year

TWO thugs who high-fived each other after an 'abhorrent' attack on two innocent people in Dudley town centre have each been jailed for a year.

Nathan Cooper and Ryan O'Toole, of Tipton, left one victim lying motionless in the street after punching and kicking him to the ground following a drunken night out.

CCTV played to Wolverhampton Crown Court showed Cooper, aged 26, and O'Toole, aged 22, pursuing two men down Union Street before launching the unprovoked assault on May 28.

It shows O'Toole gesticulating towards the the men who had been targeted, who were walking away, and Cooper throws punches to the head of one man.

O'Toole floored one of the men with a punch and when the victim got back he was knocked to the ground again, hitting his head on the ground.

Cooper – stamped on victim as he lay motionless in the street

O'Toole – punched man to the ground after following him

Stamp

O'Toole then high-fives Cooper who proceeds to stamp on the stricken man's groin. He then lands a kick to the head of the second man as he was stooping to help to his friend, who was bleeding heavily from the head injury.

Prosecutor Mr Mark Philips read out a victim impact statement from the first man who was attacked and suffered a half-inch cut to his head.

He said: "I woke up in an ambulance and had no recollection of what happened. I am now fearful of going out to Dudley town centre or anywhere for fear of being attacked."

The second victim's statement said: "The incident has left me feeling really angry. It was totally unprovoked and cowardly to hit someone as they are walking away."

Cooper, of Sherwood Avenue, and O'Toole, of Central Avenue, both admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Recorder Mr Geoffrey Pryce described the attack as 'abhorrent, cowardly, persistent and violent'.

Last week he jailed them both for a year each.

Mr Pryce said: "This was late at night, in a crowded area and fuelled by alcohol.

"I have considered very carefully the CCTV. What I have seen is disgraceful.

"The court frequently has to look at street brawls but thankfully they are not always as sustained as this.

He told them: "Mr O'Toole you were pulled back three times by a female friend but you went back.

"Mr Cooper you were determined to follow these two men.

"You pursued them, hitting out and then, most shockingly of all, it is sickening to see a man fall to the ground motionless, but you give each other a high-five satisfied with your joint work."

Mr Philip Brunt, defending the pair, said they were retaliating after a disagreement which had unfolded earlier that evening.

He added: "Everybody makes mistakes and these two have behaved terribly."

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Hairy Bikers will be in the Supertheatre

Festive tips from James Martin

COMPETITION

Tuck in ready for the festive food season

THE flagship BBC Good Food Show returns to the Birmingham's NEC next month to set visitors up for the perfect festive, foodie season.

And you could be there. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Stock up on everything you need at the BBC Good Food Show, November 24-27. Enjoy live entertainment, great shopping, be inspired by top chefs and taste exciting new flavours.

Join a stellar line up of chefs and experts including Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Raymond Blanc and Michel Roux Jr, the Hairy Bikers and NEW this year, Nadiya Hussain as they bring their favourite seasonal dishes to life in the Supertheatre.

Plus pick up top tips for the Christmas season from James Martin and other guests on the Winter Kitchen.

Hear more from your culinary heroes in live interviews on the BBC Good Food Stage hosted by the BBC Good Food cookery team, and get your cook books signed by the authors themselves.

Stock up on all the treats and tipples you'll need to see you through the winter in the various shopping areas around the Show, including The Producers' Village, a huge speciality food market, The Bakes & Cakes Village and the Christmas Shopping Market.

Be inspired with ideas for festive entertaining, tempting tastes and great shopping from hundreds of regional and seasonal producers, plus plenty of festive spirit – the tastiest way to get warmed up for the season.

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What is the Producers' Village?

Send answers on postcard with name, address and phone number to Good Food Show competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11. Closing date: Thursday, October 20.

Tickets are general admission only, excluding Saturday and excluding Supertheatre. Supertheatre tickets can be bought on the day for an additional £3, subject to availability. Not all celebrities appear on all days, see the website for details.

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Taxi drivers to be eyes on street to combat abuse

TAXI drivers across Dudley borough have pledged their support in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

More than 1,000 hackney and private hire drivers, licensed by Dudley Council, are pledging to help tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) by being 'eyes and ears' on the streets.

All taxi drivers in the borough complete a CSE awareness session as part of their licence conditions, arming them with the knowledge they need to spot the signs of a young person being exploited.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association said: "The pledge shows the drivers' dedication to tackling this serious crime and protecting young people in our borough."

Meanwhile, using the message 'Could this be your child?' an ongoing digital awareness campaign is helping parents and carers identify the signs and how to get help.

There will also be a large digital roadside screen at the junction of the M6 and M5, and posters at Birmingham's New Street Station and at the NEC.

This is the latest phase of the 'See Me, Hear Me' campaign, launched in June 2014 by West Midlands councils and police to raise awareness.

It was recently revealed that almost 100 children in Dudley borough are at risk of being sexually exploited.

According to the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board, children aged between 11 and 17 had been identified in an investigation that found 95 youngsters deemed to be at risk of becoming victims of CSE. The majority – 87 – are girls.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman Shaz Saleem holds the pledge with driver Mohammed Ali

Petition demands policing of parades

A PETITION has been launched calling for policing to be maintained for remembrance parades across the Black Country.

A cost-cutting change in policy by the West Midlands force, meaning responsibility for parade road closures now falls on organisers, has led to concerns future events could be put in doubt. But West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has vowed to work with councils to ensure roads can be closed free of charge for this year's Remembrance Day parades.

A deal for funding has already been struck with Walsall Council matching the police expenditure this year and a petition in Sandwell calls on the police to keep the same level of service for parades as in previous years.

Chiefs say local policing units would decide what police presence is appropriate at each event. But the force has insisted road closures 'must be a matter for event organisers' and that leaves many fearing high costs.

Dudley councillor Ken Finch, who helps organise the Gornal parade, said: "The police would love to help but, of course, they are under stress."

Three years behind bars for garden axe attack

A FORMER soldier, who carried an axe as he attacked the father of his pregnant partner – hours after the couple discovered their unborn child was a girl – is starting a three-year jail sentence.

Ross Wilkinson snapped after realising Chloe Lavender had gone with her parents for a meal to celebrate the result of the hospital scan without him, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

By John Scott

Days earlier disputes with her father Richard had led to the 23-year-old being asked to leave the family home in Lilac Road, Dudley, where he had lived for around six months.

The defendant, who left the army after two years aged 18, sent a text message to her mother during the meal that warned: "Don't push me out of my baby's life. It's my baby too."

Argument

This led to him having a phone argument with Chloe that prompted him to go to the family's home with an axe in a plastic bag to 'sort things out' shortly after midnight on June 10.

He leapt over a fence into the garden where Mr Lavender was smoking a cigarette, grabbed him round the throat and pushed him against the pebble-dashed wall of the house, said Mr Trevor Jones, prosecuting.

Both struggled to grab the bag which held the axe, during which Wilkinson received a bad cut to the back of his head, before Chloe managed to halt the melee.

Wilkinson threw a piece of metal at a car belonging to the family. It missed.

He told the court: "I was annoyed that Chloe and I had argued after having such a lovely day together and wanted to get it sorted.

"The family did not want me in a relationship with her and I was fed up with other people interfering in our business. Richard and I had a fight. I came off the worst but am just as much to blame as him."

Mr Jones told him: "You were obsessive and angry, could not control yourself and wanted to show the family who was the boss."

The defendant's claim to have found the axe at the property was dismissed by the judge.

Mr Will Rose, defending, said the only person injured by the axe was Wilkinson himself.

Wilkinson, of Spring Meadow, Dudley, admitted possession of an offensive weapon, assault and the unrelated burglary of a house in Halesowen on July 13.

He was made subject of a restraining order banning contact with Miss Lavender or her parents.

Enterprise partnership backs factory scheme

THE Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is supporting the project for a new manufacturing site for Steel & Alloy Processing in Oldbury.

It has given £54,000 through the Growth Deal to cover site investigation work for the former Albright High School site in Popes Lane, which shut in 2011.

Conditional contracts are in place between Trebor Developments and Steel & Alloy Processing to bring forward the major industrial development .

The proposed development of the 11.6 acre site will consist of a 300,000 sq ft manufacturing facility, which will significantly expand the manufacturing capacity of Steel & Alloy Processing.

Subject to approval of the reserved matters application, work is expected to commence on the site in spring of 2017 with it being operational by 2018, creating up to 80 jobs in the area.

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Leaders listen to public concerns

DUDLEY residents had their say at an event to influence community safety priorities across the borough.

The 'Dudley: have your say' event was held on September 28 and organised by Safe & Sound, Dudley's community safety partnership. It gave people the opportunity to highlight priorities for the coming year.

Those attending took part in workshops and also had chance to ask questions directly to a panel of decision makers from organisations including the council, police, fire service and clinical commissioning group. Partners are now committed to using the feedback and working towards addressing concerns.

Councillor Judy Foster, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "This event gave residents the opportunity to raise their concerns and talk about how communities can work with the partnership to make Dudley a safer borough. I was particularly pleased to see the number of young people."

MP calls for community speed watch over road concerns

AN MP wants police to tackle speeding on a street in Sedgley street after its residents claimed that it threatens safety.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin conducted a survey of residents on Gospel End Road and all those who replied said speeding was an issue. Many said they had witnessed an accident or near miss along the road.

Mr Austin said: "It's clear from my survey that residents think speeding is a real problem on the road.

"I'm already working with the police and residents to establish a community speed watch group. These groups have helped tackle speeding in other parts of Dudley, and I will continue working with residents to push the council to look at safety measures on the road."

The Labour MP has also used the survey responses to call on Dudley Council to introduce further safety measures to reduce speeding.

Bumps

Sedgley ward councillor Michael Evans backed Mr Austin's move but warned that installing speed bumps was out of the question as buses used the route.

He suggested speed cameras as the best alternative option to control speed.

Councillor Evans said: "It's always been a very fast road and there's been quite a number of accidents. You've got a 30mph speed limit but sadly people seem to ignore it.

"Another factor is that when there are problems on the Kidderminster Road everyone goes through Sedgley and at times it comes to a standstill.

"Gospel End Road really wants looking at. But you can't put traffic controls there as buses use that road. The only thing that would really work is putting up speed cameras."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin

Thousand new blood donors

MORE than 1,000 new donors have signed up to give blood in the West Midlands after a two-week campaign.

The Missing Type campaign brought together 25 blood services across 21 countries in a global drive for donors, and saw 24,000 across England sign up, and 46,000 worldwide. In total, 1,067 donors signed up in the West Midlands.

Jon Latham, NHS Blood and Transplant's Assistant Director for Donor Services and Marketing, said: "We're so grateful to everybody that has come forward to become a new blood donor and to all the brands, organisations and people who showed their support.

"Blood donation is an amazing gift – every donation given can help save or transform up to three lives."

To sign up as a new donor, visit: www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23

Bros back together

Matt and Luke Goss – Bros reunion tour comes to Brum

EIGHTIES pop stars Bros are coming back for a series of reunion shows, including a concert at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next summer.

Matt and Luke Goss have not played together since 77,000 packed into Wembley Stadium in August 1989.

Tickets have already gone on sale for the gig at the city centre venue on August 25 with prices ranging from £45.80 to £113.30.

"The most memorable moments for me in Bros so far is Wembley Stadium and without question our final global tour," Matt said. "Bros has been part of my life for 30 years," added Luke. "I'm deeply proud of it."

Propelled by smash hit When Will I Be Famous, Bros ruled the pop world from 1987 to 1992. They were the youngest band to headline Wembley Arena, playing 19 shows at the venue. Debut album Push went seven times Platinum and was number one in 20 countries.

Matt has gone on to become a popular crooner, selling five million albums, having a residency at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and headlining at Wembley Arena in his own right. Meanwhile, Luke turned to Hollywood and has major roles in such movies as Hellboy II, Blade II, and the TV series Frankenstein and Red Widow.

For tickets see www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 3388 222.

Pub boss delighted at real ale accolade

A BRIERLEY Hill pub is raising a glass in celebration having been listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2017.

The Waterfront Inn, on Level Street, has been given the honour in recognition of the quality of its real ale.

CAMRA's local branch members chose the Wetherspoon pub following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer. They also took into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

The pub's manager, Lucia Davies, said: "I am delighted that The Waterfront Inn has been recognised for the quality of its real ales by CAMRA members.

"We offer our customers an excellent range of real ales at all times, including those from regional brewers and micro-brewers, as well as hosting our own beer festivals.

"Staff at the pub work hard to ensure that the real ales on offer are kept in first-class condition at all times and the pub's inclusion in the guide highlights this."

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Monkeys enjoying new home

DUDLEY Zoo's group of black howler monkeys are exploring their new home.

Staff have relocated them into the historic Triple Tecton at the Castle Hill attraction. Keepers moved the family of six into the enclosure from the Small Primate House.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "Howler monkeys are an arboreal species and rarely venture to the ground, instead spending most of their time in the treetops.

"Our in-house development team worked alongside keepers to build a new indoor den outside of the enclosure, which we linked together with a rope ladder, before we extended the climbing frame, adding much more height and platforms, as well as climbing ropes and webbing. They're certainly making use of it."

Choir prepare for Christmas

DUDLEY Choral Society, who perform at the United Reformed Church Hall in Trinity Road, are beginning rehearsals for their Christmas Concert.

New musical director, Gary Cole, is keen to attract new members to join the choir before the annual festive concert, this year on December 10.

There is no audition, just join in when the choir meet at 7.15pm each Monday. Call Mrs Anne Shirley on (01384) 259250.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Historic former factory for auction as flats site

A VANDAL-HIT derelict former Dudley factory has been put up for auction with the potential for it to be converted into flats.

The Grade II listed building, which used to be known as W Devenport & Sons, in Churchfield Street, Dudley, will go under the hammer on Thursday, October 20, with Birmingham-based property specialists SDL Bigwood. It has a guide price of £78,000 to £83,000.

The former clothing manufacturing company base has fallen into disrepair but the historic building could be revived with investment and turned into apartments, according to an auctioneer.

Potential

Ron Darlington, auction partner at SDL Bigwood, said: "It has got good development potential as it's coming with some side land as well.

"It has listed status but it could be converted into four or five flats. It would of course have to go through planning and be consulted with the listed building people.

"From a builder's point of view its an ideal piece of land providing they have got the knowledge, skills and expertise to take it forward.

"It could sell for anything between £80,000 to £100,000, it just depends on the day. It's a nice looking building, especially if it was done up."

By Clare Butler

The factory was built in 1866 and has been earmarked as ripe for demolition or redevelopment after standing empty for several years.

Details about the site state: "A Grade II listed building and adjoining land suitable for development subject to obtaining planning permission. We understand that the property and land is freehold and vacant possession will be given upon completion.

"The property and side land may be suitable for development of the existing building to five or maybe six one-bedroomed flats and new build of some four one-bedroomed flats on the adjoining land all subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents.

The auction is at Aston Villa Football Club at 11am.

The Grade II listed factory at Churchfield Street, Dudley, will go under the hammer at Aston Villa Football Club next week

Library's business hub award

A FREE information service for people looking to set up their own business has won an award.

The Business Starts Here information hub was set up at Dudley Library and has a collection of business books and directories as well as access to learning courses and workshops.

The initiative won a highly commended award for best small-business friendly programme or campaign at the 2016 FSB Local Authority Small Business Friendly Awards.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The information hub has been well used since we set up the service in June with many people being referred to meetings with business advisors from our network of partners. I'm delighted that the initiative has been recognised with this award."

Omma crew charity busk

A CHARITY busking event will be held at a cafe in Dudley next Saturday.

Billy Spake Mon and Dave Coughlin are hosting Buskin' for Charity at the Cosy Café, in Churchill Shopping Centre on October 22 from 10.30am.

Billy, from Black Country Radio's Omma n Chain Show, has invited many of his performer friend to take part.

All proceeds from the event will go to local charities.

Jobs at risk in transport plan

TWENTY jobs are at risk under Dudley Council plans to privatise transport services to day care centres in a bid to save more than £250,000.

The latest in a swathe of cost-cutting plans by the authority– has been met with concern in the borough.

Council bosses said they will be reviewing the lease on its fleet of 11 minibuses this year, and plan to use private companies to deliver the transport services to four day care centres in the borough.

The changes, which are due to come into force before the end of the year, would affect 13 permanent staff and seven casual workers.

Users who pay for the transport would not see a change in terms of prices, bosses insist. Among day care centres affected are the Unicorn Centre in Stourbridge, Queens Cross Network in Dudley, The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote and The Brett Young Day centre in Halesowen.

Crimewave brothers jailed after car theft and burglary

A PAIR of brothers from Dudley who went on a crime spree together are starting jail sentences.

Habitual thieves Scott and Shane O'Rourke took the keys to a car while it was parked near a dental practice in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

For unknown reasons the keys had been left on a wall in the street by the couple who owned the Honda Civic, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The brothers drove away in the vehicle – which has not been recovered – on September 1 with 28-year-old Shane at the wheel and Scott, aged 30, in the front passenger seat. Police identified the pair from reviewing CCTV coverage.

Four days later the brothers smashed their way into a house in Chapel Street, Pensnett while the occupants were at work.

Damage

The thieves broke a panel in the kitchen door at the rear of the address, causing £500 damage, and searched drawers in rooms throughout the house, said Mr Searle. But a sharp-eyed neighbour alerted the police who arrived as the pair fled with their haul of electrical gear, games consoles and mobile phones.

The burglars reached their Fiat Punto getaway and started the engine but a police officer managed to smash the driver's side window and snatch the key from the ignition.

Drug problems were responsible for the offending of both men, said Miss Nicole Steers, defending.

She asked for a sentence that would help the brothers from Black Acre Road, Buffery, to break the habit.

Scott O'Rourke had 24 previous convictions involving 45 separate offences, 27 of which were for theft. Shane O'Rourke had 26 offences of dishonesty among his previous convictions.

Both pleaded guilty to the Chapel Street burglary and the theft of the Honda Civic from Dixons Green Road.

Shane also admitted driving while disqualified with no licence or insurance. He was jailed for two years four months and banned from driving for four years two months. Scott was locked up for three years.

Pub landlord has died at 93

A FORMER Brierley Hill pub landlord has died, just short of his 94th birthday.

Reg Hooper, born in Amblecote, ran the Foley Arms with wife, Ethel, in the 1970s. The pub, now known as The Wellington, fronted the famous Simpkiss brewery.

After war time service, Reg went into the pub trade with Ethel at the Kings Head at Old Hill. He also ran his own tiling business. The couple lived in Cradley before taking on stewardship of Churchill and Blakedown Golf Club, then moving to the Foley Arms. They retired to Callow Hill and finally to a bungalow near Tenbury Wells. Reg and Ethel were married for 67 years until her death in 2010.

Reg died on October 3. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, two grand-daughters and six great-grandchildren. The funeral is at 1.30pm at Stourbridge Crematorium on Tuesday.

Coffee morning raises £380 for Macmillan

Sainsbury's staff Julie Bate and Colleen Shakespeare

STAFF at Sainsbury's Amblecote held a Macmillan coffee morning in store raising hundreds of pounds for charity.

The event took place on September 30 and raised £380 for Macmillan, which was aided by customer and staff donations.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe, joined residents at the event to make his contribution.

Café worker Colleen Shakespeare, who supports the event in her own time each year said: "We were overwhelmed by the donations from our customers and very humbled to hear how Macmillan assists their families, who have been affected by cancer."

It was held as part of the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer.

The charity ask people all over the UK to host their own coffee mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan.

Last year alone the coffee mornings raised £25 million and this year they are hoping to have raised even more.

Jenny enjoys her big break on top TV show

A QUARRY Bank woman made her TV debut in front of millions of viewers during the X Factor ad breaks.

Assistant care co-ordinator Jenny Hawkins performed her rendition of the song The Final Countdown, which appeared in during the adverts of the show.

The song was performed on the FX Star App made by Talk Talk, which sponsors The X Factor.

Jenny, aged 42, said: "This will be my 15 seconds of fame! My husband Martin has uploaded about 30 videos using the FX Star app and I only did a few so it's rather funny that one of my videos has been selected over his."

The mobile company has launched the app which allows fans to create their own videos for the chance to star on national TV.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Select a filter, choose a track and hit record.

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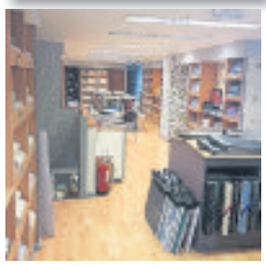

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Business leaders look to past and future

Dudley canal trust chief Nick Morris, Gavin Williamson MP, IoD regional director Calum Nisbet and advisor Dan Lewis

THE region's industrial heritage was on the minds of business leaders when the Institute of Directors (IoD) held a Black Country dinner at the home of Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust.

The Portal Building provided the backdrop as many IoD members took up the offer of a pre-dinner boat trip into the Dudley canal tunnel and the limestone caverns beneath the town.

Richard Jones, an active member of the trust since its foundation in the early 1960s, revealed the history of the tunnel, built by the Earl of Dudley in 1781. He also spoke of the work of the trust that has seen the tunnel and its canal system become a conservation area and popular local attraction.

IoD Black Country branch chairman Ian Priest pointed to members at The Portal "the contribution of the sheer hard graft of Black Country men and women" who had built the tunnel.

Heart

"This area has changed almost beyond recognition but it remains the manufacturing heart of the country," he said.

Bringing things up to date, Dan Lewis, IoD senior advisor for infrastructure policy, spoke of the need to ensure that future big infrastructure projects brought the best value for money. He highlighted the potential benefits of upgrading the UK's broadband network to give the nation GigaBit connectivity. Spending £10bn would cover two thirds of the country, he said.

IoD research had found that at least half of members would consider more flexibile working with better broadband allowing more people to work from home.

Guests also heard talks from South Staffordshire MP and Government Chief Whip Gavin Williamson.

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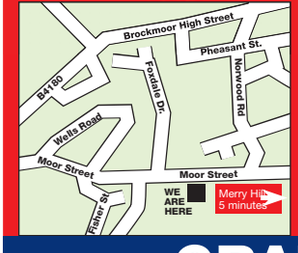

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A pump trailer with 'CWS DUDLEY' lettered in gold on the front

Old fire coats and hats were found in the disused fire station at the Dudley factory building

The Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley

The hoses are still in place after more than half a century gathering dust

Secret fire station found frozen in time at factory

A FIRE station frozen in time has been found hidden inside a Dudley factory.

The room, at the Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley, was discovered by staff and it appears to be have untouched for more than 60 years.

The room contains perfectly preserved uniforms, with the names of the wearers chalked above them. Scrawled names include I Silk, W Price and A Round.

Documents suggest the items date back to the early 1950s, when the local Co-op, which had its own fire brigade, operated from the building.

The shopfitting firm moved into the Hall Street site in 1986 but many corners have been left unexplored until now.

A gas mask and neatly rolled-up canvas hoses are seen hanging up on one wall inside the rediscovered fire service room.

Also on display is a certificate awarded to one of the men when the Dudley brigade entered competitions with other Co-op forces. There are even programmes from events dating from the 1950s.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Clare Butler

Marketing manager for the Alan Nuttall Partnership,Anna Bamford said: "I have only been with the company for about nine weeks and was really excited to hear about it.

"It had just been locked up and never opened again."

Information

She continued: "Something like this we were really keen to know more about it and speak to anyone who may have worked there in the past.

"At the minute, we have minimal information about it but, looking towards the future, we would love to think if any of the items could go on display – maybe at a fire station museum somewhere.

"Nothing has been touched, at the minute, and it's still covered in dust.

"If there is anyone who is interested in restoring it, or giving us some advice, we'd love to hear from them.

"I have already taken a call from a gentleman who used to go on holiday with one of the firefighters who used to work there too – so there's really interesting information coming in."

Matt Hornblower, Nuttall's operations director, said that the most impressive piece in there is a pump trailer, powered by an engine. It is still bright red, with 'CWS DUDLEY' proudly lettered in gold on the front.

Mr Hornblower added: "There's still air in its tyres and just a few spots of oil on the floor beneath."

Anyone with information about the room or who is interested in restoring the items, should call Anna Bamford on (01384) 245100 or email anna.bamford@nuttalls.co.uk

The factory was also munitions manufacturer during the First World War and later made Bean Cars.

It now employs more than 600 staff.

On the peg for some 60 years – a fireman's uniform found in the forgotten room at the Dudley factory

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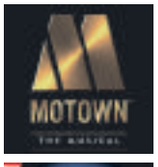

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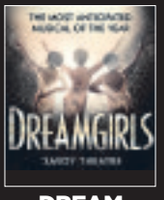

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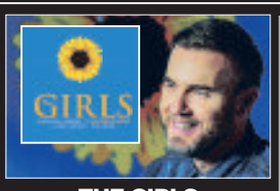

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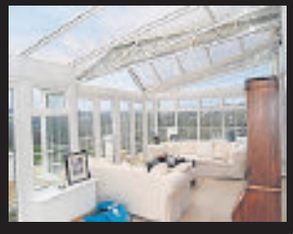

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Tips tops for family fun with a touch of tragedy

An evacuee arrives at school in 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, Kneehigh's collaboration with Michael Morpurgo

946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips
Birmingham Rep

THEATRE REVIEW

BURDENED though it is by a long and convoluted title, this new play from a Michael Morpurgo story is an exhilarating and hugely enjoyable production for all the family.

It is based on a hushed-up wartime tragedy during the preparations for D-Day, that saw 946 US troops killed off the coast of Devon when ambushed by Nazi German E-boats. Yet it is actually a joyously life-affirming show with only brief moments of sadness.

The play centres on Lily Tregenza, a 12-year-old farm girl, missing her father away at war but embracing every new experience as London evacuees come to her village, then black American GIs bearing gifts of candy and hot dogs. When Lily is forced to leave her farm, she enlists her new friends to find her missing cat Tips. Then the irrepressible young girl is faced with the realities of war.

Katy Owen, recently seen as Puck at London's Globe theatre, is a full of restless energy as Lily, racing around the stage as if the theatre can barely contain her. She also has a knack for inspired silliness and slapstick humour, joining in with the dynamic jitterbugging Yanks.

This production by Cornish company Kneehigh, adapted for the stage by Morpurgo and Kneehigh's Emma Rice, gleefully breaks lots of rules – a couple of female roles are played by men, actors sometimes talk direct to audience members, the on-stage band blast out pop favourites. It also includes a few anachronisms (would a 1940s schoolgirl know kung fu poses?) but it is all done with such boisterous good humour that the audience is happily carried along.

The massacre at sea is represented with tin baths, toy soldiers and streamers. Odd but strangely effective.

Tips shares with Morpurgo's major stage success War Horse a backdrop of sadness and a clever use of puppets, albeit on a much smaller scale (literally). But you will wiping away more tears of laughter than sadness.

It continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

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£240k funding to encourage students into business careers

THE Black Country is getting a £240,000 boost to help young people develop their future careers.

It will aim to help link 13 and 14-year-old schoolchildren, in school year nine, and their teachers with employers, encouraging more youngsters to choose careers in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, building and transport technology and business services.

The idea is that if youngsters get to meet with people in various businesses it can inspire them in their choice of a future career.

The Black Country's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has been awarded the funding by the Careers & Enterprise Company to deliver the scheme, called Passport to Employment. Launched by the Government but led by employers, the Careers & Enterprise Company was set up last year to improve careers provision in schools and colleges across England.

Generation

George Andrews, chairman of the Black Country LEP employment and skills board, said: "This investment will enable the Black Country to build on existing partnerships.

"Through the Passport to Employment not only do we aim to inspire the next generation of engineer or manufacturer but also to create a framework of effective continuing professional development for teachers across sectors.

"The programme will create a blueprint for assignments for use in the classrooms, not just across the Black Country but potentially on a national scale."

The LEP will be working a series of organisations to deliver the project across the Black Country, including Business in the Community, Wolverhampton Education Business Partnership (EBP), Dudley EBP, Sips Education (Sandwell's EBP) and Education Business Partnership Walsall.

Safety work planned for busy junction

MAJOR improvements will be made at a busy junction in Halesowen to tackle congestion and improve safety.

A six-month scheme will overhaul the junction at Dudley Road and Coombs Road in Halesowen, with work due to get under way in January.

A pedestrian crossing will be added while the layout of the junction will be altered make it easier for traffic to get onto Dudley Road.

Highways bosses have been trying to find a solution to problems at the junction.

Drivers are regularly stuck in delays on Coombs Road during rush hour as traffic heading for the M5 backs up from Manor Way.

Nearly 7,000 people work on the Coombs Wood Business Park and vehicles leaving the site only adds to the delays, and around 300 homes are set to be built in the area over next five years.

Aerospace investment at company

Sales director Ian Perks (left), Wade Overton and production director Dave Bryant

DUDLEY'S Alloy Heat Treatment (AHT) has revealed a £500,000 investment that will help produce parts for passenger jets.

The company's new Oven 30 allows it to solution treat larger products and is the largest oven the company has owned.

It has been specifically built to handle aerospace parts at the firm's Grazebrook Industrial Estate factory, where it employs 53 people.

The firm is the UK's only specialist in heat treating aluminium alloys.

AHT managing director, Adrian Church said: "We've built and installed the biggest piece of heat treatment equipment we have ever had, in order to do work for a customer who are making parts for the new Bombardier C Series plane."

Quicker

Production director Dave Bryant added: "Oven 30 will allow us to quote for more work and we will be able to complete existing work quicker as we can put more product in, so this will improve our efficiency. We can reduce the energy we are using by using one oven rather than three."

AHT enjoy long term relationships with aerospace industry suppliers, applying their heat treatment expertise to semi-finished parts to increase strength, endurance and life span.

The company is also accredited to work in aerospace, defence and related industries and have preferred supplier status to major companies including Rolls Royce, BAe and Airbus.

Local councils could buy the M6 Toll road

TRANSPORT Secretary Chris Grayling has paved the way for the M6 Toll to be nationalised by admitting he was not 'philosophically opposed' to the idea.

He said that if the West Midlands Combined Authority – made up off all four Black Country councils plus Birmingham, Coventry, and Solihull – wanted to buy the motorway, it could. But he added that there may be other infrastructure priorities.

It comes after South Staffordshire Conservative MP Gavin Williamson repeated calls for the road to be taken into public ownership in order to ease congestion on the West Midlands motorway network..

Mr Grayling told the Express & Star: "I have no philosophical objection to the combined authority to purchase the road. We have to bear in mind at a time when taxpayers' money is in short supply and we want to invest in infrastructure, are we better off spending the money on taking over something that is already there or investing in a new project?

"The M6 Toll is an asset to the region. I understand why people want to buy it but there are other needs for infrastructure in the West Midlands, too."

The M6 Toll has been put up for sale by its owners with a reported price tag in excess of £1bn.

The West Midlands Combined Authority has already mooted the idea of taking over the road.

Mr Williamson, prior to his appointment as Chief Whip, said he had conversations with ministers to see if the road could be taken into public hands.

The 27-mile M6 Toll, from Cannock to Coleshill, is Britain's first pay-to-drive motorway.

A debt-restructuring process led to a consortium of 27 banks effectively taking ownership of the loss-making road from Midlands Expressway Ltd. It is now selling its equity stake.

Roadworks on the M6 have helped boost takings on the M6 Toll by more than £10 million.

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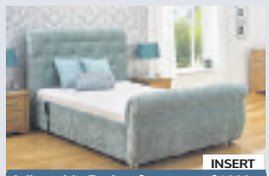

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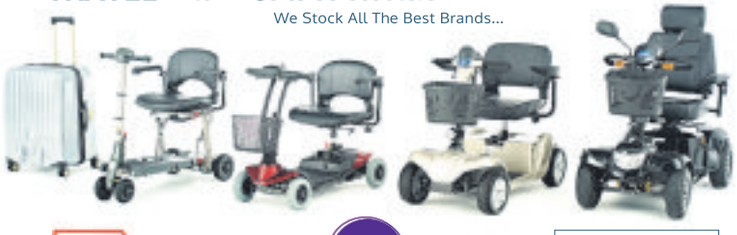

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Ross Noble – Brain Dump
Mon - Tue,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hal Cruttenden: Straight Outta Cruttenden
Wed, £18
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Angelos & Barry: The New Power Generator
Thu,
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Lee Hurst: Comedy Show No. 9
Tonight, £16.50
Huntingdon Hall,
CrownGate Shopping Centre,
Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

THEATRE

The Rocky Horror Show
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - tomorrow, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 – The Musical
Tonight - tomorrow
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Bardolph's Box
Tonight - tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
Tonight - tomorrow, £10.75 - £12.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Jimmy Osmond: Moon River and Me
Tomorrow, £31.92 - £85.12
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Cosi Fan Tutte – ROH Live screening
Mon, £12 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Woman in Black
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Living with Luke
Tue,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382
and
Wed,
Solihull Arts Complex, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Whitney – Queen of the Night
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Psychic Sally: Call Me Psychic
Thu, £27
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

La Voce
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Professor Brian Cox Live
Thu,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

You better Beliebe – Justin is back

Justin Bieber is coming to Brum after his latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries

IT'S the biggest pop music event of the year for thousands of Justin Bieber fans when the young Canadian mega-star brings his Purpose World Tour to Birmingham for three concerts.

The Beliebers will be out in force with every night sold out, starting with his gigs at the Barclaycard Arena in the city centre on Monday and Tuesday, followed next Monday, October 24, by his additional concert at the Genting Arena at the NEC.

And it will mark the pop phenomenon's second, third and fourth gigs in the region after being one of the headliners at the summer's V Festival.

His latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries and is shattering records worldwide, including having 17 songs in the Billboard Hot 100 in one week. He also established a new Spotify record for global streaming with more than 200 million fans streaming Purpose, his sixth album.

The 22-year-old singer and songwriter from Ontario also became the first artist, since Elvis Presley, to replace his own song as number one on the UK singles chart when Love Yourself replaced Sorry at the top of the chart.

Dickens of a great story

WELSH actor Jacob Ifan (pictured left), best known for his role as Jake Vickers in the BBC police drama series Cuffs, is to make his professional theatrical debut in a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday (October 19-22).

Joining Jacob is Joseph Timms, whose credits include Twelfth Night and Richard III (Donmar on Broadway). Shanaya Rafaat, who has appeared in Great Expectations at West Yorkshire Playhouse and King Lear at Shakespeare's Globe will also be in the cast along with National Theatre actor Sue Wallace and Royal Shakespeare Company actor Patrick Rome.

Dickens considered his novel, A Tale of Two Cities, the best story he had written, interweaving one family's personal drama with the terror of the French Revolution. It is an epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption.

This play version was first staged in Northampton in 2014, to great acclaim, and was director James Dacre's inaugural production at the theatre. It was adapted by Mike Poulton, who also adapted Wolf Hall for the RSC, and has an original score by Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman.

Dacre said: "Our decision along with Jenny King, producer of The Touring Consortium, to revisit the production during this year of elections, referendums and revolutions across the world is motivated by a shared belief that great historical dramas can play an important role in contemporary political conversations."

Civic ready to Blast Off at venue again

LEGENDARY Wolverhampton club night Blast Off! will return for two nights before the end of the year.

On Saturday the indie night will celebrate 20 years since it was first staged and a Christmas party is planned for December 17, both at the Civic Hall.

This weekend's anniversary event will also give folks an early view of the new-look Civic as the famous venue nears completion of its £14 million revamp.

Originally planned to re-open with The Specials on November 11, the Civic will now be open throughout October, hosting the Magic of Motown on October 23, before work resumes in January.

Bostin' festival goes indoors at Robin 2

BOSTIN' Days was a Levellers tribute album featuring more than 30 artists to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance and in October 2015 the Bostin' Days Live Festival took place in Nuneaton where 20 of the acts played on two stages.

In 2016 Bostin' Days 2 comes to Bilston's Robin 2 venue over Friday and Saturday (October 14 and 15) to bring the festival atmosphere without the need for waterproofs and wellies. Tomorrow night has Ferocious Dog, Black Tar Rivers Boozy Big Band and Star Botherer. On Saturday there is music on two stages from noon until The Leylines at 10pm. All for £30.

Naturalist ready to Packham in Grand

NATURALIST Chris Packham is coming to Wolverhampton to give a talk on his career and conservation at the Grand Theatre.

Tickets for Tadpoles Not Included on Monday at 7.30pm are on sale at £19.25 and £21.25. The Springwatch presenter will be sharing his experiences of close encounters with large hungry carnivores and giving his views about conservation. The talk is illustrated with his own photographs and video.

The 55-year-old first found fame in the 1980s on The Really Wild Show. His autobiography Fingers in the Sparkle Jar: A Memoir was published in May.

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 13, 2016

CHOICE

Julie Walters (left)

Artsnight – Julie Walters Meets Willy Russell (BBC2, 10pm)

Actress Julie Walters interviews her friend and collaborator Willy Russell, to explore his thoughts on how a working-class lad from Liverpool's suburbs - who dropped out of school at the age of 15 - became one of the most celebrated playwrights of modern British theatre. The 1983 film adaptation of Russell's play Educating Rita helped Walters find stardom as she took the title role opposite Michael Caine, and here, she encourages Russell to open up about some of his other, lesser-known artistic ventures. Plus, the pair visit some of the distinctive Liverpool locales that have formed part of their home-city's cultural character, including the Philharmonic Pub.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. Jill Douglas introduces coverage of the women's road race from Qatar. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance contest continues. So far, two couples have left the competition, and to keep hold of their chance of reaching the grand final, the remaining contestants must prove their mastery of ballroom and Latin routines in live performances. As ever, judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to scrutinise every move and pass their verdict, ahead of tomorrow's show, in which the results of the public vote will be revealed.

8.25 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts, and Gaby Roslin presents the all-important weekend draw.

9.15 Casualty. Elle calls Connie's ability to focus on the job into question, and Robyn's plans for the future take an unexpected turn.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Everton at the Etihad Stadium and Chelsea v Leicester City; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. New series. Stand-up comedian Romesh Ranganathan heads to Sri Lanka to connect with his roots, visiting must-see locations and taking part in traditional rituals and customs.

12.20 Film: Wedding Daze. (2006) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Till the End of Time. (1946) **7.45** Coast. (R) **8.45 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) **10.25** Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Michael Cockerell examines why backbench MPs are becoming increasingly rebellious, and meets the people whose job it is to ensure that all the Commons' clocks tell the same time. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. The historian examines how murder infiltrated popular culture during the Victorian era, and how the depiction of grisly crimes in literature captured the public's imagination.

8.30 Dad's Army. Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)

9.00 The Secret Life of Sue Townsend (Aged 68 3/4). Profile of the creator of Adrian Mole, with contributions from comedians and writers she inspired, as well as entries from her own diary, documenting her struggles with ill health.

10.00 Artsnight – Julie Walters Meets Willy Russell. Julie Walters interviews her friend and collaborator Willy Russell about his career as a playwright, and the pair explore some of Liverpool's lesser-known cultural landmarks.

10.30 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley. (1999) A man is paid to persuade a businessman's spoiled son to return home to his family, but ends up assuming his identity. Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon and Jude Law.

12.45 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **1.45 Film:** X the Unknown. (1956) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: DC Super Hero Girls: Super Hero High. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.20** The Chase. (R) **2.20** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.20** Pick Me! (R) **4.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Jimmy Carr, David Haye and Charlotte Crosby answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. New series. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The pressure is still on for the remaining contestants as the talent contest's live stage continues. As was the case last week, each of the would-be stars must once again perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, who has the girls, Nicole Scherzinger, looking after the boys, Louis Walsh, in charge of the groups, and Sharon Osbourne – who has the overs – as well as millions of viewers at home. Once this latest round of performances are out of the way, Dermot O'Leary entrusts the stars' fate to the shows fans, as the public vote opens.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by QI funnyman Alan Davies, actor and comedian Russell Brand, impressionist Morgana Robinson and the newly reunited Bros. Singer Rebecca Ferguson performs live.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: GT Academy. **6.40** Yorkshire Marathon. **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of British Champions Day at Ascot. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.45** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Crossrail Discovery: London's Lost Graveyard. Documentary catching up with London's Crossrail engineers less than two years after the project's excavations uncovered the 14th-century Charterhouse plague pit. In an extraordinary turn of events, further work on the Liverpool Street station has revealed another burial ground, this time accommodating the capital's radicals, rebels and outsiders. The Bedlam burial ground, which is thought to be the final resting place of nearly 20,000 people, was believed to be lost for around 300 years. Now, with the excavation process under way, archaeologists and historians have been using bone analysis techniques in conjunction with parish records to reveal the names and life stories of those whose remains were found on-site. Their research reveals that people came from as far afield as Africa to work in the English capital, and sheds light on how pollution first became one of the city's most prolific killers. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. New series. The historian explores the UK's network of ancient trackways and roads, which have been walked by pilgrims, hunters and invaders over the course of the past 5,000 years.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Victoria Coren Mitchell going up against guest captain Lee Mack and Bob Mortimer.

10.00 Film: Limitless. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Bradley Cooper.

12.05 Film: Starred Up. (2013) **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 NCIS. Gibbs sends DiNozzo and Ziva on a decoy mission to retrieve top-secret information from a secure military base, in a bid to expose a spy in NCIS. (R)

7.00 NCIS. Having identified the mole in their ranks, the agents arrest the traitor's contact Ted Bankston, a former NSA agent working for a kidnapper code-named the Weatherman – who is making millions on the stock markets out of stolen military data. Drama, guest-starring David Eigenberg, with Mark Harmon, David McCallum and Cote de Pablo. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. The murder of a petty officer on a US Navy construction site leads Pride to a drugs cartel, but when he launches a sting, he discovers Sonja among the dealers.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Newcastle United v Brentford at St James' Park, Derby County v Leeds United at the iPro Stadium and Aston Villa v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Villa Park.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Scunthorpe United v Milton Keynes Dons and Sheffield United v Port Vale.

10.30 Britain's Greatest Bridges. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. (R)

11.25 Ram Raid Britain: Caught on Camera. The documentary showing how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice looks at the rise of ram raids. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00 Film:** The Keeper of Lost Causes (2013) **10.30** Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga **11.30** Southern Rock at the BBC **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **1.30** Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga **2.30** Southern Rock at the BBC **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.50 You've Been Framed! **1.50 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **4.00 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.55 Film:** The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **1.00** Rosemary & Thyme **2.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **1.05** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.00 Film: Apache (1954) **3.45 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.40 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **1.50** Car Crash Global **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

2.45 Rude(ish) Tube Short **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Raj Rules **9.00 Film:** Paul (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for SU2C **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for SU2C **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.25** Revenge **5.10** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Vice Versa (1988) **2.55** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.35** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** Red (2010) **11.15** The Divide (2011) **1.30** This Means War (2012) **3.30** Close

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CHOICE

Max Irons

Tutankhamun (ITV, 9pm)
New series. Drama about the discovery of the Egyptian Pharaoh's tomb in 1905. Archaeologist Howard Carter is recruited by aristocrat and amateur Egyptologist Lord Carnarvon to explore the Valley of the Kings, and discovers evidence of the boy-king's final resting place. However, his expedition is threatened by global events and his own impulsive nature. Starring Max Irons, Sam Neill, Jonathan Aris, Catherine Steadman, Vincent Grass, Waleed Elgadi, Chloe Sweetlove, Anthony Higgins, Susan Danford, George Jackos, Riaz Solker, Leon Clingman, Rupert Vansittart, Cedric Leherle, Ashleigh Tobias, Joe Vaz, Gary Green and Shaun Acker.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Points of View. **2.45** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **3.45** Regional Programme. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani explore the Isle of Wight, where Matt abseils down the walls of Carisbrooke Castle to clear the ivy and works with two donkeys to draw water from a well, while Anita helps local volunteers to round up feral goats and visits a vineyard. Naomi Wilkinson drops in at Ventor Botanic Gardens, Adam Henson meets a commercial deer breeder, and Tom Heap reports on plans to crack down on keeping chickens in cages. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The two lowest scoring couples from last night's show compete in a dance-off to decide who will be eliminated. Plus, a guest performance by Madness and a tribute to James Brown.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Baddesley Clinton, a moated manor house near Birmingham. Items brought in to be valued include a controversial carving of St George.

9.00 Poldark. Dwight prepares to elope with Caroline, but his plans are jeopardised when he is needed to treat Rosina's leg, and also discovers that Ross is walking into a trap.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Extended edition. Stephen Mangan hosts the satirical current affairs quiz, with Ruth Davidson and Henning Wehn joining team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.

11.10 Film: Midnight's Children. (2012) Two men switched at birth find their lives intertwined as they grow up in newly independent India. Drama based on Salman Rushdie's novel, starring Satya Bhabha.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

7.45 Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.40** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.30** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.00** Flog It!

6.00 Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants – Natural World. Conservationist Dr Julian Fennessy is on a mission to learn more about the giraffes of Africa, but the most important fact is that they are disappearing. In an urgent attempt to save them, he and a determined Ugandan team round up 20 of the world's rarest giraffes to take across and beyond the mighty Nile River. The stakes are high, but if they succeed the reward will be a brighter future for an animal Dr Fennessy believes has been overlooked. (R)

7.00 Inside Obama's White House. Four-part series giving an account of Barack Obama's successes and failures, as told by his inner circle and chief adversaries, including the story of how he tried to reshape America. The election of the first African American President marked an era of hope, but what happened instead was economic collapse, minimal cooperation from the Republican opposition, and the rise of a populist anti-big government Tea Party. The first edition focuses on how Obama crashed a private meeting of fellow heads of state to persuade the Chinese to tackle climate change at the Copenhagen summit, as well as his struggle to shut down Guantanamo. (R)

8.00 The Greatest Tomb On Earth: Secrets of Ancient China. Dan Snow, Alice Roberts and Albert Lin explore the final resting place of China's first emperor, and uncover evidence that casts a new light on the founding of the nation.

9.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. Wildlife in America's mountain regions, including the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada, exploring the methods used by black bears, pikas and bison to survive in harsh conditions.

10.00 Mock the Week. (R)

10.35 Film: Borrowed Time. (2012)

12.00 Film: The Magdalene Sisters. (2002) **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** CITV: Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.35** Victoria. (R) **3.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Susie Dent, Anthony Crolla, Ellie Taylor and Harry Redknapp pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. The results of Saturday's live show are announced, and the acts discover who is through to the next episode and who will have to compete in a sing-off to avoid elimination.

9.00 Tutankhamun. New series. Drama about the discovery of the Pharaoh's tomb in 1905 by archaeologist Howard Carter, whose dig is jeopardised by global events. Starring Max Irons and Sam Neill.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.20 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica tackles a case in Japan, where a motorcyclist romancing the daughter of a traditional family finds his life is on the line. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.40** Motorcycle Racing: Mondello Masters. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Rescuers. (1977) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Eva Gabor. **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30 Film:** The Golden Compass. (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. A collection of Iranian diamond and sapphire jewellery is brought in to the shop by a customer hoping to fund renovations to a villa in Cyprus. Claudia examines a handbag that once belonged to Sharon Osbourne, James swaps his usual fast cars for something a bit smaller, and and the staff compete to win employee of the month.

8.00 Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show pitting four gifted youngsters featured on Child Genius against a team of Channel 4's finest celebrity minds, made up of Alan Carr, Rachel Riley, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Aisling Bea. The teams battle it out through a series of challenges, testing their spelling, maths, general knowledge and memory, as well as individual specialist subjects.

9.00 The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special. Stephen Merchant hosts a one-off revival of the game show in aid of Stand Up To Cancer. A celebrity team led by Rio Ferdinand and made up of Michelle Keegan, Jonnie Peacock, Sara Cox, and Josh Widdicombe face a series of mental, physical, skill and mystery challenges in the Aztec, Medieval, Future and Industrial to win crystals and earn time for their final test in the Crystal Dome.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. (R)

12.10 Film: Stoker. (2013) **1.50** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **2.50** The Tiny Tots Talent Agency. (R) **3.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.45** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.55** Pets. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** The Great Birmingham Run 2016. **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50 Film:** Big Momma's House. (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **4.35 Film:** Mr Deeds. (2002) Romantic comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler and Winona Ryder.

6.20 Now That's Funny! Featuring amateur athletes, a tribute to CSI with a cast of children and a talking baby.

7.10 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. The final round of acts taking up the duo's challenge include a performer who demonstrates why you should not steal from a magician, a teenage stage magic champion, a maternal illusionist and a former contestant on America's Got Talent. Penn and Teller close the show with a vanishing one-minute egg trick. Last in the series.

8.05 Ice Road Truckers. Todd runs into trouble when he and rival Darrell Ward hit a newly opened trail. Plus, Polar boss Mark pairs his new recruit with company wildcard Art Burke.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Divergent. (2014) Premiere. A teenager grows up in a strictly ordered future society where people's lives are decided according to personality types. She discovers she does not fit into any of the existing categories, and must fight against a conspiracy to wipe out all those like her. Sci-fi adventure based on the book series by Veronica Roth, starring Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet. Includes 5 News Update.

11.45 Film: Dead Man Down. (2013) Premiere. A gangster plotting revenge on his own boss is blackmailed by a woman into murdering the man who disfigured her. Crime thriller, with Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace.

1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni **8.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **9.00** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **10.00** Storyville: Moazzam Begg – Living the War on Terror **11.25** Horizon: Is Seeing Believing? **12.25** Light and Dark **1.25** Mechanical Marvels: Clockwork Dreams **2.25** Dissected: The Incredible Human Foot **3.25** Close

ITV2

2.35 I'm a Celeb: Epic Trials **3.35 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.20** Dating in the Dark **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 Lewis **2.35 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **4.05 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Rising Damp Forever **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Lewis **2.00** The Kindness of Strangers **3.15** May the Best House Win **4.55** You're Only Young Twice **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

3.05 Film: Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **6.15 Film:** Apache (1954) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20 Film:** Apache (1954) **8.00 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.45 Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **10.45** FYI Daily **10.50 Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **11.50 Film:** Ronaldo (2015) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55 Film:** Ronaldo (2015) **1.40** The Big Fish Off **2.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00 Film:** Stuart Little (1999) **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **7.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday

Film4

1.00 Bandslam (2009) **3.10** The House of Magic (2013) **4.50** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **6.35** Vertical Limit (2000) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Red Lights (2012) **1.35** The Boss, Anatomy of a Crime (2015) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Red Dragon, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The FBI agent who first captured Hannibal Lecter is called out of retirement to catch a demented murderer dubbed the Tooth Fairy, who slaughters a family whenever there is a full moon – forcing the detective to draw on the imprisoned cannibal's expertise in criminal psychology. Thriller prequel adapted from the first of Thomas Harris's Lecter novels, starring Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2002)

TUESDAY
Too Late to Say Goodbye, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair and confides in a mystery man she meets on the internet. When her spouse's lover dies under suspicious circumstances, she fears he may have murdered her – or that her online friend is not as trustworthy as he appears. Drama, starring Stefanie von Pfetten, Rob Lowe, Lauren Holly and Yannick Bisson. (2009)

American Pie: The Wedding, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
A Wife's Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A forensic investigator begins to suspect her new husband is the serial killer the police department has been hunting, putting her and her ex-boyfriend – a detective on the case – in danger. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth. (2016)

THURSDAY
The Killing Game, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A sculptor whose daughter was murdered receives phone calls from the killer, and tries to identify him before he strikes again. Mystery, with Laura Prepon and Ty Olsson. (2011)

FRIDAY
American Pie: The Wedding, ITV, 10.40pm
The friends from East Great Falls High reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming wedding. Though reluctant to invite Stifler to their big day, the happy couple relent – but regret their decision when he plans a bachelor party on the same evening Jim is due to meet the in-laws. The third instalment in the comedy series, with Jason Biggs. (2003)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Taking control of his incredible new powers

As many know from offerings like Carrie, and Village of the Damned, adolescents with psychic powers go together as well as nitro and glycerine. Now there's another young man with a 'gift' set to add a chill to your pre-Hallowe'en viewing.

This new drama comes from the pen of Paula Milne, the brains behind acclaimed offerings The Virgin Queen, The Politician's Husband, and Endgame. Her latest concerns a 17-year-old boy caught in the limbo between childhood and adulthood.

However, he's also trapped between the homes of his divorced parents Hannah (Katherine Kelly) and Edward (James Murray), each now remarried with new families.

Like most lads, he finds it difficult to process his feelings, so he tends to "act out." However, the protagonist known only as Him also has a supernatural power he inherited from his granddad.

Newcomer Fionn Whitehead plays the eponymous protagonist. He saw the audition posted on the National Youth Theatre website and applied for it. Although Ffion didn't hear anything, he was encouraged to apply for it again by a Youth Theatre director.

"So I re-applied and included a very clear photo in the email. The casting director Daniel Edwards called me within 10 minutes," he explains. "I put a lot of it down to him, he was incredible."

Fionnwas working in a cafe at the time and acting in his free time for the love of it.

"Then when I got this role it blew it all out of the water. It was not what I was expecting at all. It was amazing."

Since leaving Coronation Street, co-star Katherine Kelly has been able to choose some of the best projects in British drama, from Mr Selfridge to new Dr Who spin-off, Class.So what was it that attracted her to Him?

"It was one of the most unique television scripts I'd read," she explains. "I thought, 'This is something really different, especially for mainstream television.' A current television show that could be something really special and that always excites me. Something that is domestic but not obvious."

She adds: "It is a modern family drama and I'm sure a lot of people will relate to that. And then in the telling of it this supernatural element comes out of something a lot of teenagers will relate to. It's not something put on top. It's cleverly done."

Carrying a series is a lot for a veteran actor, let alone a newcomer, and Katherine was impressed by Ffion's natural ability to juggle all the filming and acting elements thrown at him.

"The director was very aware that Fionn was carrying the show and that's a lot of pressure on somebody so young. And the only way you can do that is to have knowledge of what's going on around him.

"You wouldn't think it was his first job," she adds. "He took it all in his stride. He's a pro already."

The first episode focuses on Him having to deal with adolescence, failing grades, the repercussions of his parents' divorce, and his feelings towards his stepsister. Then there's the additional pressure of learning to control his telekinetic powers.

Fionn Whitehead stars in Him, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Paxman on Trump vs Clinton: Divided America
BBC1, 9pm
Considering he has referred to Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton a 'dull candidate' and Republican Donald Trump a 'clown', this one-off documentary by Jeremy Paxman should make interesting viewing. Clinton once held a double-digit lead over Trump, but this has been eroded by the billionaire, partly due to health concerns when she fainted in public after suffering from pneumonia. But with the Republican nominee prone to making gaffes and alienating key demographic groups, he has failed to close the gap on her fully. Here Paxman examines the US presidential race and how it is laying bare America's class divide. He also looks at the strengths and weaknesses of each individual and attempts to predict how the election of either candidate to the White House on November 8 will change not only America, but the world.

TUESDAY
Who's Spending Britain's Billions?
BBC2, 8pm
Thanks to our regular pay slips, we all know how much we are getting deducted each week or month. But as cash-strapped Britain continues to spend less on the public sector, do we really know where our taxes are being spent? Spending on schools, hospitals and foreign aid are well debated, but in this one-off documentary Jacques Peretti looks beyond these well-known budgets to a range of less-known projects, from virtual receptionists at Brent Civic Centre to night-vision goggles being used to spy on dog walkers in Staffordshire. He finds that local councils are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find and also reveals that hundreds of millions of taxpayers' pounds are spent on contracts are covered by confidential deals.

WEDNESDAY
Little British Isles with Alison Steadman
Channel 4, 8pm
TV's passion for celebrity travelogues shows little sign of abating, and in the latest beloved individual off on a tour is the woman who breathed life into classic dramas such as Abigail's Party, Life is Sweet and more recently Gavin and Stacey. A couple of years after fronting a compelling documentary about Shetland for ITV, she now she takes us on a tour of some of the small islands that surround Britain. And there's no shortage to choose from as 267 are inhabited. The actress has always been fascinated with idyllic island life since holidaying on the Isle of Man as a youngster. In the first episode, she travels to some of Scotland's windswept Inner Hebrides, and over the course of a week she explores the sparsely populated Gigha, Jura, Colonsay and Oronsay.

Stand Up to Cancer, Friday, Channel 4, 7pm

THURSDAY
Anne Robinson's Britain
BBC1, 8pm
Anne explores body image among the younger generation, investigating whether they are under more pressure to look good than ever before. She meets make-up addicts who spend more time getting ready for a night out than on the night itself, a couple of gym obsessives in pursuit of social media followers and a young man going under the knife in the hope that one day he will be 'perfect.' She also meets some people who could not care less about how they look – including naturists happy to let it all hang out.

FRIDAY
Stand Up to Cancer
Channel 4, 7pm
It's that time of year again when the main TV companies pull out all the stops for their chosen charities, and for the latest, Channel 4 have a feast of entertainment lined up. The aim, as you'll have gathered, is to persuade us to part with our cash, which will go towards finding a cure for cancer. Davina McCall, Alan Carr and Adam Hills guide us through the proceedings, and some famous faces will be giving their verdict on small screen gems in Celebrity Gogglebox. Hills returns for a special edition of The Last Leg, and a galaxy of stars, including Jamie Dornan, Michael Bublé, Britney Spears, Noel Gallagher, Olivia Colman, David Tennant, Jon Hamm and Eva Longoria have done their bit to ensure we keep that cash flooding in.

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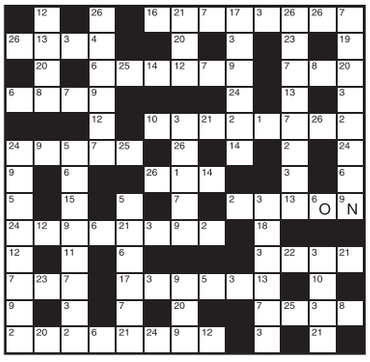
BRAIN GYM No.399

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 O	19
7	20
8	21
9 N	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	S	B	V	I	W	M	T	J	Q	A	U	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	D	P	E	L	K	G	Z	O	R	X	C	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

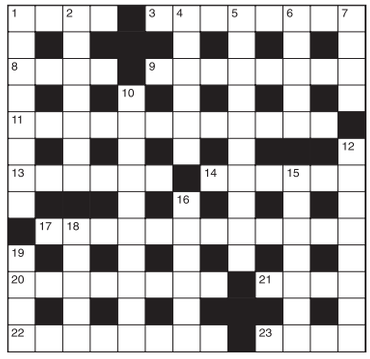
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Dull retrograde poet (4)
3. About to die, put bone in pile of earth (8)
8. Boast clothing given back (4)
9. Throw round a tree like lightning? (8)
11. So Hun militia suffered indignities (12)
13. Deem it nothing to include returning punctually (2,4)
14. Does he record the runs in twenties? (6)
17. Make a big noise to make the building taller? (5,3,4)
20. An aristocrat of high principles? (8)
21. Eat to celebrate Enid's comeback (4)
22. Urgent work to make clothes look better? (8)
23. Taking a long time to begin to make a gesture (4)

Down

1. You can tell a graduate by what he wears in infancy (8)
2. Again let in mad rite (7)
4. Its contents make for smoother running (6)
5. Helpless with laughter after surgery? (2,8)
6. Joining association (5)
7. Animals initially deprived of good sustenance (4)
10. Retired art teachers? (3,7)
12. Do they waste time over the sweet course? (8)
15. Disturbance - when odd trio take mixed gin (7)
16. This tune takes much effort (6)
18. Go at an easy pace - not enough for a wager (5)
19. Break cooking vessels up (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Fall (4)
3. Miserable (8)
8. Secure (4)
9. Passage (8)
11. Tripper (12)
13. Endeavour (6)
14. Winner (6)
17. Betterment (12)
20. Almanac (8)
21. Certain (4)
22. Balderdash (8)
23. Repudiate (4)

Down

1. Administer (8)
2. Functionary (7)
4. Army recruit (6)
5. Despotic (10)
6. Underworld (5)
7. Gloomy (4)
10. Predominance (10)
12. Lavish (8)
15. Offering (7)
16. Bog (6)
18. Fruit (5)
19. Scrutinise (4)

Sudoku

		9				7		
	8			5	3		4	
		6	8	2		5		
	1			6				9
	4	5				3	2	
				9	2		7	
	9	3		8	4	2		
	2		1				6	
		1			6	9		4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	4	9	6	2	3	7	8
8	9	6	1	7	3	2	4	5
3	7	2	8	4	5	6	1	9
2	3	5	4	8	7	9	6	1
9	6	7	2	3	1	8	5	4
4	8	1	6	5	9	7	2	3
5	2	9	7	1	8	4	3	6
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
7	4	3	5	9	6	1	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Proposition; 9 Lobster; 10 After; 11 Elite; 12 Tension; 13 Fronts; 15 Parent; 18 Operate; 20 Tip-up; 22 Eland; 23 Inmates; 24 Presumption. Down: 2 Rabbi; 3 Patient; 4 Sprite; 5 Twain; 6 Outside; 7 Elderflower; 8 Bring to pass; 14 Open air; 16 Attempt; 17 Medium; 19 Andes; 21 Patio. QUICK - Across: 1 Nondescript; 9 Erected; 10 Forge; 11 Sieve; 12 Element; 13 Recess; 15 Amount; 18 Meander; 20 Upset; 22 Naive; 23 Allegro; 24 Wealthiness. Down: 2 Obese; 3 Dithers; 4 Sadden; 5 Rifle; 6 Parvenu; 7 Measurement; 8 Restitution; 14 Chalice; 16 Maudlin; 17 Breach; 19 Dwell; 21 Sages.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. In Roman mythology, of what was Janus the god?
2. Who wrote The History Man in 1975?
3. What type of creature is a rorqual?
4. What is the brightest star in Ursa Minor?
5. Which novelist gave the Wars of the Roses their name?
6. In which novelist's works does the basketball player Rabbit Angstrom recur?
7. How many beats per bar are there in a waltz?
8. When is the feast day of St Patrick?
9. In which ocean are the Sea Islands?
10. Of which name has England had one king, France two and Poland three?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Malta; 2 Operation Overlord; 3 Jordi; 4 Kamikaze; 5 Dorset; 6 Sir Michael Tippett; 7 Woody Allen; 8 Myanmar (Burma); 9 112; 10 Isaac.

Niner: DUPLICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7852 gives an emperor,
93244 gives an explorer,
816927 gives an inventor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 13, 2016

New start for Old India

After reading the good online reviews MARK SHIPP samples the fare at the Old India in St Anne's Road, Willenhall

THE area was home to a dog racing track years ago. Now Amirul Hoque is out of the traps to launch his restaurant career.

Amirul previously worked in the laundry business, but hopes to clean up after branching out to become owner of Old India, in St Anne's Road, Willenhall.

Formerly a takeaway business, Amirul has expanded the premises into a dine-in restaurant. And, while the take out business continues to be popular, he admits it has been hard to attract sit-down diners.

Parking is perhaps an issue. The restaurant is located in a predominantly residential area, with the odd new-builds adding to the traditional terraced homes, and a clamour for the on-road spots. Elsewhere, there are signs of commercial activity.

Inside it is well lit so you can actually see what you are eating

Takeaway has now expanded into a dine-in restaurant

Limited

The Forge Tavern stands at one end of the road, adjacent to another derelict former pub and the restaurant faces green space belonging to St Anne's parish church.

A bargain supermarket is right next door, ideal, for picking up your alcoholic drinks before popping into the unlicensed Old India for your meal.

It was a quiet Tuesday night when my partner and I dined, so we were able to make use of what limited parking there is. As a takeaway this would not pose a problem as one could simply park up for just a few minutes, pick up their meal and go.

So, is this what is holding Old India back? The potential is there, and many people passed as we dined. There's plenty of competition in the town, but surely the proof is in the pudding, they say. Online reviews are favourable. 'Very clean and the warmth inside', 'made to feel welcome and comfortable', 'food delicious and waiters friendly' among the comments by satisfied diners. This was matched by our own experience.

Its description in a village magazine as 'quality Asian cuisine in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere' I can identify with.

Size isn't everything, and, although it's small inside, it's within its means. The overall decor is nothing spectacular, but it's certainly well lit and, from the the music played on a loop I still have one particular tune in my head.

Our waiter was courteous and was happy to explain to us what certain dishes consisted of.

The menu itself threw up some tasty sounding dishes, like a Lahore special, taste of Jaflong and chicken Rajhastani.

There were plenty of non-Asian offerings, too, including scampi, chicken nuggets and omelette. For starters I can heartily recommend the korahi kebab and whatever secret recipe sauce it was cooked in.

I opted for the moza mix as my main, taken from the chef's specials, and comprising Tandoori chicken, keema balls and spinach cooked with spicy onions in an exclusive sauce.

It was one of a number of fancies, but a wise choice as immediately the temperature hit me – and the taste was good, too.

A creamy makhani chicken – yawn! – was the choice of the less daring other half. She likes to compare with others, and though this may not have quite measured up to the fare dished up elsewhere, it did go down well.

Prices are reasonable, though, with set meals for two at £24, for example. And being able to take your own drinks always cuts the cost.

Old India is open from 5pm every day. To book a table, or for details of special offers, call 01902 630811.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Beautiful and much improved traditional detached house

121 Tipton Road, Woodsetton, is a beautifully presented and much improved traditional style detached house.

Having a substantial two storey extension to the rear and countryside views, it is for sale through Wakeman at £365,000.

Spacious and in a convenient position accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, a front door with leaded inset and leaded side windows, parquet flooring and a built-in cupboard.

The sitting room has a bay window to the front with leaded panes and an inset gas living flame fire.

The extended living room and dining area has a window tot he front and a bow window to the rear, both having leaded panes, and an inset living flame gas fire.

The extended breakfast kitchen has been extensively re-fitted with a range of high quality French oak units including base cupboards, drawer units, corner displays, work top surfaces, wall cupboards, glazed wall cupboards, an integrated refrigerator, provision for dishwasher, double drainer stainless steel sink unit with mixer taps, part tiled walls and ceramic tiled flooring and a pantry.

Off the first floor landing is bedroom one with windows to the front and rear, bedroom two – which is positioned to the rear of the property – with a range of built-in wardrobes, a chest of drawers, a bedside cabinet and an en suite shower room.

Outside is a most attractively landscaped front garden with a driveway providing ample off street parking, a shaped lawn, circular slabbed patio area, further slabbed area, shrubs, borders and beds.

There is also an attached garage with a store room to the rear and a utility. This has a corner wash hand basin, provision for a washing machine and ceramic tiled flooring.

A gated side entrance leads to a most attractively landscaped rear garden with patio areas, shaped lawns, shrub borders and beds, ornamental pool, timber garden store and brick boundary walls to right hand side and rear.

WOODSETTON £365,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman
TEL: 01384 459999
EMAIL: Dudley@wakeman-online.com

KEY FEATURES

- Beautifully presented
- Much improved
- Detached
- Substantially extended
- Countryside views

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LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IDEAL FOR THE TRADESMAN REQUIRING EXTENSIVE SECURE PARKING/GARAGING WITH A LARGE FAMILY!!
With FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, and set within walking distance of the village, this is a wonderful spacious family home. Gas centrally heated & Upvc double glazed accommodation provides; hall, fitted cloaks, two reception rooms (formerly separate rooms), Huge through breakfast kitchen, and a utility room. Four generous bedrooms, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE/ LARGE CARPORT/GATED PARKING, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £311,950

LOWER GORNAL, Sandyfields Road, Straits

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! tremendously modernised, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home with exceptionally flexible room arrangements presented in superb order throughout comprising; reception hall, L shape living/dining room, kitchen, dining room (alternative fourth bedroom?), third bedroom, "wet-room", toilet. To the first floor are; two dormer bedrooms & shower room. Garage, sheltered rear garden and panoramic distant views. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £245,000

SEDGLEY, Dumbleberry Avenue, Brownswall estate

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL!, Enviably situated, gas centrally heated, gas centrally heated & double glazed DETACHED requiring sympathetic updating in favoured district occupying a large plot comprisng; porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, lobby, lengthy utility room/store,. Three bedrooms, bathroom, w.c. Large (24 ft) garage, good sized secluded rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £240,000

KINGSWINFORD, Honeytree Close

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED LINK DETACHED HOUSE which enjoys very pleasant elevated front views and offers a GENEROUS layout which includes TWO RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE BEDROOMS. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC E

No upward chain — £189,950

LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom. parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000

DUDLEY, Balmoral View, Milking Bank

Significantly enhanced, improved, Freehold gas centrally heated 'oak effect' UPVC double glazed detached at head of driveway offering further potential accommodation includes porch, hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, store, 'activities room', inner 'office section', cloakroom. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white contemporary style suite, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

New price — WAS £186,950, NOW £180,000

WORDSLEY, Chapel Street

A DELIGHTFUL DETACHED BUNGALOW which is within walking distance of local amenities, offering a WELL APPOINTED and ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED layout of accommodation which includes TWO GOOD BEDROOMS. With FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a patio rear garden. EPC C

£179,950

DUDLEY, The Broadway

FANTASTICALLY PRESENTED semi-detached situated on the extremely popular Broadway in Dudley. EXTENDED family home, along with central heating and double glazing also boasts, porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, EXTENDED KITCHEN, guest W/C, sitting room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden, integral garage, driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £184,950, NOW £179,950

SEDGLEY, Ettymore Road

Within immediate walking distance of the Bull Ring just TWO - gas centrally heated, double glazed two double bedroom homes nearing completion to a first quality specification. Accommodation to include hallway, cloakroom, kitchen (granite work surfaces & various integrated appliances), living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, garden, parking to foregarden. Prices £142,500 and £145,000. SAP: TBA SEDGLEY

WOODCROSS, Robert Wynd

TREMENDOUSLY IMPROVED & OFFERING FURTHER POTENTIAL! Situated upon large corner plot a spacious double glazed partial gas centrally heated semi detached that has been significantly upgraded and now requires some finishing works comprising; hall, store, lounge, dining kitchen (formally two rooms) with an extensive range of stylish units, lobby, cloakroom, store. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, extensive corner plot, garage. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £134,950

NETHERTON, Church Road

This TRADITIONAL & BAY FRONTED, THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Rear Veranda, Three Good Family Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC:

£124,950

BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

This EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED & SUCCESSFULLY ENLARGED, TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY comprises: Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Delightful Conservatory, Two Generous Bedrooms, Beautifully Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Pretty Garden. EPC: D

£124,950

UPPER GORNAL, Gideons Close

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, this well presented FIRST TIME BUYERS property is situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. As well as being double glazed and gas centrally heated this semi-detached home also boasts; hall, living room, attractive modern kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £124,950

BROCKMORR, Leys Road

This RATHER DECEPTIVE & MOST APPEALING, MODERN STYLE, TWO BEDROOM HOME comprises: Pleasant Lounge, Spacious Well Fitted Kitchen, Two Good First Floor Bedrooms, Well Appointed Bathroom, Attractive Front & Rear Gardens & Rear Driveway. EPC:

£109,950

BRIERLEY HILL, John Street

This RATHER LOVELY, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME should interest first time buyers, and comprises: Hall, Generous Sitting Room with Dining Area, Kitchen, Two Bedroom, Box Room, Large Bathroom and Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC: D

£109,950

COSELEY, Ebenezer Street

A surprisingly spacious traditional end of terraced property located in the popular Coseley area. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this TWO BEDROOM home has; living room, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, well appointed shower room and enclosed private rear garden. Viewing is recommended to fully appreciate what this house has to offer. EPC :D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950

SEDGLEY, Holborn House, High Holborn

A 'loft-style' gas centrally heated and double glazed TWO BEDROOM 'duplex' apartment (with gated access to secure parking) and walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides imposing reception hall, fitted cloak room, living room and a dining kitchen with an extensive range of units and integrated appliances, walk in store. Two generous bedrooms, bathroom, gated parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £106,950

WORDSLEY, Mount Road

REQUIRING UPDATING / IMPROVEMENT, this TRADITIONAL TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE offering a spacious layout with MUCH POTENTIAL. Set beyond the lawned front garden and the property enjoys a good sized rear garden. EPC F

No upward chain — £104,950

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DUDLEY, Sedgefield Close, Milking Bank

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An attractive, imposing & particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated detached family residence occupying a fine corner plot in favoured district. Offering potential, the accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen. Four bedrooms (one with ensuite), bathroom. LARGE 36 FT GARAGE, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £233,500

SEDGLEY, Ley Rise, Northway

Significantly enhanced/upgraded, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached set at head of short/quiet cul-de-sac with good distant views comprising; hall, cloakroom, lounge, store, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of 'high gloss cream' finish units & many integrated appliances, conservatory. Three bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom with contemporary style white suite .Garage, extensive parking, sheltered 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000

SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

A fine example of a TRADITIONAL EDWARDIAN semi-detached property situated in the desirable area of Sedgley having been lovingly refurbished to a fantastic standard and offering accommodation over three storeys as well as benefiting from a cellar, gas central heating & double glazing, this well proportioned family home also boasts; hallway, through lounge (27 in length), refitted kitchen, utility room, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, modern family bathroom, outside W/C, detached garage, carport, and workshop/ storage, and parking. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950

DUDLEY, Himley Road

ENLARGED, modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in exemplary order throughout comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, 17' lounge with bay, enlarged/upgraded breakfast kitchen; three bedrooms (principal bedroom with toilet en suite), reappointed bathroom with white suite. Lengthy garden, panoramic views, and CAR PORT together with ADDITIONAL PARKING at rear. EPC Rating: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £161,000

PENSNETT, Corbyns Hall Road

This SPACIOUS & TRADITIONAL, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Driveway, Excellent Garage, Guests W.C and Large Rear Garden. EPC D

New price **£159,950**

COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road

Conscientiously maintained & well presented detached bungalow located on the popular Upper Ettingshall Road area of Bilston. Benefiting from entrance hallway, this much improved property also boasts THREE BEDROOMS, fitted kitchen, shower-room, living room/ orangery, double glazing, central heating, enclosed rear parking, driveway to front. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £154,950

TIPTON, York Close

Comparatively spacious, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with LARGE CONSERVATORY that has been modernised & comprises; porch, inner hallway, ground floor bathroom, refitted kitchen with a range of light beech units & activities room (former garage), living/dining room, conservatory. Three bedrooms, shower room, toilet. LARGE GARDEN. EPC: D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £150,000

KINGSWINFORD, Chandler Drive

Just over two years old, this SUPBERLY PRESENTED MEWS PROPERTY offers a BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED and TASTEFULLY DECORATED layout which includes TWO GOOD BEDROOMS. With 7/8 years NHBC Warranty. DOUBLE DRIVEWAY and a sunny/ beautifully laid out rear garden. EPC C

£149,500

WOODSETTON, Duncroft Walk

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Enviably situated overlooking open aspect to front a gas centrally part UPVC double glazed FREEHOLD semi detached for modernisation offering potential. With a GARAGE at rear the accommodation provides hallway, lounge, transverse dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and a garden. Mining report available. EPC Rating E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

PENSNETT, Church Street

This MOST APPEALING, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Modern White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Pretty Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:E

£114,950

TIPTON, Bloomfield Road

A fantastically presented family home situated in the Tipton area and comprising of central heating and double glazing. This deceptively sized intermediate property has entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, attractive and modern shower room, THREE BEDROOMS, garden to front with garden and driveway to rear. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

NETHERTON, Hill Street

This BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, THREE BEDROOM, PERIOD STYLE HOME briefly comprises: Hall, Two Traditional Reception Rooms, Modern Re-Fitted Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Lovely Garden. EPC: D

New price **£114,500**

WOMBOURNE, Bull Lane

A LARGE TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT with a private rear garden and a LARGE CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, superbly placed close to countryside/ fields within sought after Wombourne village, offering a GENEROUS layout of accommodation. EPC D

No upward chain **£110,000**

COSELEY, Painters Croft

Tastefully presented modern intermediate situated in a popular development in Coseley. Benefiting from living room, kitchen-diner, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, parking to front, central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

PENSNETT, Rookery Park

This MOST APPEALING & SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL STYLE, THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Initial Hall, Pleasant Lounge, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Re-Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Rear Garden. EPC C

£99,950

DUDLEY, Douglas Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in an idyllic location in Dudley opposite Buffery Park, this immaculately presented ground floor maisonette benefits from central heating & double glazing. Ideal for the first time buyer or a purchaser looking to downsize this TWO BEDROOM home also boasts; well-appointed living room, refitted kitchen and bathroom, landscaped and private rear garden, driveway to front with parking for multiple vehicles. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £89,950

BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

This TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME has huge potential to create a lovely FIRST HOME and may make an ASTUTE INVESTMENT PROPERTY. Comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, Allocated Garden, DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING. EPC E

New price **£65,950**

BRIERLEY HILL, Dadford View

This VERY WELL PRESENTED & BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, GROUND FLOOR, MAISONETTE comprises: Porch, Lovely Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge, Generous Double Bedroom, Stunning White Suite Bathroom, Allocated Parking & Pretty Communal Gardens. EPC:D

New price **£59,950**

Semi-detached has been nicely extended

AMBLECOTE
£220,000

An immaculately presented and impressively extended semi-detached family home in this popular and convenient location, 1 Allan Close, Amblecote, is close to local amenities.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £220,000.

It briefly comprises a large lounge, separate dining room, fully fitted extended dining kitchen, four well proportioned bedrooms with the master having a large full en-suite bathroom, a shower room and extremely spacious garage with an electric door. It also has gas central heating, double glazing, a spacious blocked driveway and wide easily maintained gardens. In more detail the lounge has laminate-style flooring and a living flame gas fire.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com

Versatile and a traditional semi-detached family home

STOURBRIDGE
£189,950 <<<

Great for access to town, this extended, versatile, traditional semi-detached family home in Vauxhall Road, Stourbridge is for sale through Taylors at £189,950.

Having further potential and coming with a large rear garden, its accommodation, with gas central heating and majority double glazing, briefly comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room with wood-effect flooring and a smart feature fireplace and a bay window overlooking the frontage of the property, a home study, a dining kitchen with wood-effect flooring and French doors opening out to the garden, a utility and a guest cloakroom.

There are three bedrooms (one en suite) and a bathroom and a driveway to the front and a rear garden which includes a good sized terrace and lawn.

For further information call 01384 395555 or visit the site taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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73 THE BROADWAY, DUDLEY 0/A £315,000
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•Impressive hallway, two reception rooms, farmhouse style kitchen
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•Planning App No: DC/14/57543
•Convenient location

46 BHYLLS LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON O/A£220,000
•Traditional well proportioned three bedroom semi detached house
•Extensively renovated and improved throughout
•External insulated wall cladding, re-wired and re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
•Good sized rear garden with useful brick built utility room/play room with w.c
•EPC RATING C

42 WALLOWS WOOD 0/A£185,000
LOWER GORNAL
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•Utility room & rear conservatory
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139 SEDGLEY ROAD £170,000
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•Excellent opportunity for purchaser
•Generous sized plot
•EPC RATING F

47 CEDAR AVENUE O/A £169,960
COSELEY
•Traditional style semi detached house
•Three bedrooms, separate lounge & dining room
•Enlarged & re-fitted kitchen, coservatory
•Private rear garden
•EPC RATING C

58 RUITON STREET O/A £139,950
GORNAL
•Modern end of terrace residence
•Two double bedrooms
•Breakfast kitchen, dining conservatory
•Easily maintained rear garden
•EPC RATING C

16 ROWAN ROAD £129,950
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Two bedrooms
•Lounge & dining room
•Utility room & ground floor w.c.
•EPC RATING D

35 LANGLEY AVENUE £104,950
COSELEY
•Traditional end terraced house
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87 Lawnswood Road, Wordsley **£315,000**

- Three/four bedroom detached property located in a much sought after part of Wordsley
- Close to all local amenities, popular schools and local transport links
- Modern living with 'L' shaped lounge/dining, leading to re-fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Downstairs cloakroom, re-fitted bathroom, good sized rear garden, central heating & double glazing, EPC: D

44 Maidendale Road, Kingswinford **£274,950**

- Split level four bedroom detached home located a short distance to Kingswinford Town
- 24ft 2" x 19ft 6" Living Kitchen with two balconies, two further generous reception rooms
- Master bedroom with dressing room/potential en-suite (not fitted but plumbing installed)
- Bedroom two with en-suite, fitted cloakroom, central heating and double glazing, EPC: D

16 Kingsley Road, Kingswinford **£239,950**

- Extended three bedroom semi detached in prime residential area, ideal for Glynn/Summerhill schools
- Ground floor cloakroom, enlarged kitchen, refitted bathroom
- Central heating and double glazing, no upward chain
- Level rear garden and large garage, viewing Essential, EPC: E

66 Moss Grove, Kingswinford **Offers Around £199,950**

- Four bedroom detached Just a short distance from the heart of Kingswinford
- Extended accommodation, and Ideally placed for excellent local schools
- Two reception rooms, downstairs cloakroom, bathroom and separate shower room
- Large driveway, level rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing, EPC: D

25 Mayfair Drive, Valley Fields, Kingswinford **£184,950**

- An enlarged, part renovated three bedroom semi-detached property
- Newly fitted enlarged kitchen with integrated appliances
- Quietly situated at end of cul-de-sac within popular Valley Fields
- Double glazing and new central heating system, level rear gardens, EPC: F

49 The Breeze, Brierley Hill **£159,950**

- Modern three bedroom property, presented and maintained to a high standard
- Well fitted dining kitchen, attractive bathroom, en suite shower room
- Fitted ground floor cloakroom, spacious lounge, driveway, landscaped gardens
- Conveniently situated near to the Merry Hill Centre, EPC: B

4 Skylark Close, Badgers Rise, Brierley Hill/Gornal **£158,500**

- Outstanding two bedroom semi-detached with garage on sought after 'Badgers Rise'
- Ground floor cloakroom, conservatory, re-fitted kitchen and bathroom
- Maintained to a high standard with central heating, UPVC double glazing
- Driveway, landscaped rear gardens, corner plot, viewing essential, EPC: D

3 Hazel Road, Kingswinford **£154,000**

- Beautifully presented and modernised semi-detached home
- Two double bedrooms, outstanding dining kitchen, large utility room
- Central heating, double glazing, tastefully decorated, driveway
- landscaped garden, ideally placed for good schools, ready to move in, EPC: C

84 Redhall Road, Gornal Wood **£253,000**

- Extended period cottage with contemporary twist
- Separate home working space or possible annex
- Large re-fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances
- Spacious living/dining with multi fuel burner
- Main bedroom with fitted wardrobes and vaulted ceiling, two further bedrooms
- Bathroom with freestanding bath, double gates to secure parking, Must be viewed, EPC: D

8 Dubarry Avenue, Valley Fields, Kingswinford **£177,950**

- Enlarged semi-detached home in sought after location
- Garage conversion providing a fourth bedroom, fitted cloakroom
- Spacious kitchen and utility room, central heating, double glazing
- Sunny rear gardens, ample parking, EPC: D

27 Cooknell Drive, Wordsley, Stourbridge **£177,950**

- Outstanding, three bedroom semi-detached property
- Newly modernised throughout with versatile accommodation
- Enlarged, currently with ground floor master bedroom & en-suite
- Re-fitted dining kitchen & shower room, central heating, double glazing, EPC: D

11 Bickon Drive, Quarry Bank **£142,500**

- Superbly presented modern two bedroom home in tucked away spot
- Located just a short walk to Stevens Park and minutes from Merry Hill, Stourbridge nearby
- Tastefully decorated, fitted cloakroom, lovely kitchen and bathroom
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing, allocated parking, EPC: D

52 North Street, Brierley Hill **£92,500**

- Generous two bedroom apartment on the ground floor with residue of NHBC
- Ideally placed for access into Stourbridge and The Merry Centre
- Allocated parking, communal grounds, central heating, double glazing
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, must be viewed, EPC: C

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- Double Glazing ● Rear Garden ● No Upward Chain

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- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen ● Downstairs Bathroom
- Central Heating, Double Glazing

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Well-appointed apartment comes with superb views

COOKLEY
£96,950 <<<

In a development for the over 55s, this lovely one-bedroomed first floor apartment in Austcliffe Lane, Cookley has stunning countryside views.

It is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard at £96,950.

This particular apartment is not overlooked, benefiting from a private aspect overlooking the Worcestershire/ Staffordshire canal with views towards Whittington & Kinver Edge.

The apartment is set in four acres of well tended grounds in a secure environment within 24 hour reception and own personal alarm call system. It briefly comprises of an entrance hall, a bathroom, a double bedroom with a dressing area, an open plan kitchen, living room with patio doors and Juliette balcony.

For further information contact Phipps & Pritchard on 01562 822244 or visit phippsandpritchard.co.uk

End of terrace home has been extended

GORNAL
£139,950

This modern extended two-double-bedroomed end of terrace home in Ruiton Street, Gornal, Dudley, is for sale through Wakeman at £139,950.

It has an entrance hallway, a lounge, an inner hall, a cloakroom, a breakfast kitchen, a dining conservatory, a landing, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, garage and gardens.

The property is a modern extended end of terrace residence occupying a convenient location within reach of a wide range of amenities, Gornal village centre and Sedgley together with access to surrounding centres. The house has well maintained and attractively presented accommodation with two double bedrooms, double glazing and gas central heating.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 or visit the site www.wakeman-online.com

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 13, 2016

Beefed up and much tastier

By John Griffiths

The often overlooked Suzuki S-Cross was among the early players in the now burgeoning compact crossover sector.

In spite of competitive pricing and a high degree of competence, what it perhaps lacked was the chunky looks demanded by those who have sent SUV sales soaring by 27 per cent this year. The car was too car-like for that.

But that's all changed, with a heavily revamped model which offers more room, a range of new hi-tech and efficient engines and importantly perhaps – if first impressions do count – the stronger, bolder looks of a full-blown SUV.

The S-Cross now comes with two small and economical (but still punchy) turbocharged petrol engines: a 1.0 litre version from the new Baleno and the 1.4 from the acclaimed new Vitara S. The revamped 1.6 turbo diesel is more familiar, but now offers lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Unlike many of its rivals, all versions are available with Suzuki's proven ALLGRIP four wheel drive on demand system.

Prices range from £14,999 for a two-wheel drive with the 1.0 Boosterjet engine, rising to £24,349 flagship model with 1.6 turbo diesel and four wheel drive. A six-speed twin clutch auto is an option with both petrol engines.

The new S-Cross is much more distinctively styled, with a bolder new grille, clam sheel bonnet, broader 'shoulders' and new LED lights. It also has greater ground clearance.

Inside, it has been upgraded with some softer, more expensive-looking materials and a lot of new technology, including the central information/control screen. The cabin has plenty of room for five adults. Leg and headroom in the back is particularly generous for this class, with a roomy 430 litre boot (875 litres with the rear seatbacks folded down). The seating position is high, one of the attractions of an SUV. It means easier access, and great visibility.

A major attraction is that you can have a smooth, comfortable car with 4x4 capability that is still economical to run and environmentally friendly. That's thanks to the combination of new engines and Suzuki's ALLGRIP 4x4 system, both geared to efficiency and fuel saving.

I must admit that, although I was mightily impressed by the 1.0 Boosterjet engine in the Baleno I did wonder how such a small, three cylinder engine would cope with a heavier 4x4. The answer is perfectly, confirming my high opinion of it in the Baleno. The figures are some illustration: 0 to 62mph in 11 seconds, an official 56.4mpg average and a low 113g/km of CO2, but that's only part of the story.

The small, turbocharged petrol engine is becoming increasingly popular with manufacturers and drivers. It has the economy advantage of a small engine under light throttle, but put your foot down and you have the added oomph from the blower.

The Boosterjet produces 110bhp and 170Nm of torque. Compare that to a current, normally aspirated 1.0 litre engine from a major manufacturer – 60bhp and 95Nm.

The torque figure is, if anything, more important than bhp. It mean the Boosterjet, and consequently the S-Cross, is responsive and flexible from low revs and it drives particularly smoothly and quietly without the noise and need for constant gearchanges we experience in a more traditional engine.

During a long test drive across A and B roads in North Wales, my test car averaged an impressive 49.7mpg. Driving it was a relaxed experience because it has the refinement of a car with a much bigger (and thirstier) car.

The 1.4 Boosterjet, of course, has more of everything. 140PS, 220Nm, a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 10.2 seconds and yet still manages better than 50mpg economy and CO2 emissions of 127g/km. It is both more powerful and more economical than the old 1.6 petrol engine it replaces.

Currently 76 per cent of all Suzuki's sold here go to private buyers, people spending their own money which says a lot for the brand.

But Suzuki is hoping to make a bigger impact on the fleet market with its 1.6 turbo diesel version of the S-Cross, with a special business-user specification, the SZ-T. With 120bhp and 320NM of torque it can average almost 69mpg and the lowest CO2 rating of the range – 106g/km – making it one of the most tax-efficient SUVs around.

The ALLGRIP system was pioneered in the original S-Cross and is a small, light weight replacement for more traditional four wheel drive systems, aiding economy.

All models come with seven airbags and an electronic stability system, and have a five star EuroNCAP safety rating.

All models, get alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, stereo radio/CD player and Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, hill hold control, automatic engine stop/start and multi-function information display.

The S-Cross's bold new 'face' will probably be the first thing many potential buyers notice, but competence as well as beauty isn't just skin deep.

The latest version of the car has a practical and much improved interior, and under the bonnet the new engines are a technical tour de force, offering small capacity economy with the refinement of a bigger power plant.

The availability of four wheel drive confidence with even the smallest, cheapest versions may well be a big attraction to private buyers, but specification and tax efficiency means Suzuki should now make some bigger inroads into the lucrative fleet market.

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Beware of terrible consequences

An alarming number of university students have admitted to using their mobile phones while behind the wheel, as well as speeding and drink driving.

According to a survey of 2,313 young Europeans commssioned by Ford, 43 per cent said they had sent texts while driving, while 38 per cent used apps and 36 per cent answered phone calls.

An additional 60 per cent said they break the speed limit, while 13 per cent had admitted to drink driving.

Comparatively, out of those who left school at 18, 45 per cent said they speed, nine per cent admitted to drink driving and 41 per cent claimed to use their phone behind the wheel.

These findings come in light of earlier research from the World Health Organisation and the European Road Safety Observatory that found that car crashes are the leading cause of death among young people.

Ford's survey findings were published as students across Europe enjoyed Freshers' Week, a week of partying to mark the start of university life for new undergraduate students.

Jim Graham, manager at Ford Driving Skills for Life, said: "Getting to university is an incredible achievement and it is also where many of us make some of our strongest friendships.

"But we want to make sure these are lifelong friendships and help to ensure that these young people can one day look back with pride on a successful graduation.

"It is crucial students, and all young people,understand the terrible consequences, both for themselves and for others, that taking risks behind the wheel can lead to."

Other risks university students said they would be tempted to take included driving a car overloaded with friends (48 per cent), driving with little or no sleep (75 per cent), riding in a car driven by someone they knew had been drinking (28 per cent).

It was found that 30 per cent of university students had admitted they had been in an accident, compared with 25 per cent of those who left school at the age of 18.

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Understated but Alpina has superb performance

By Jack Evans

Alpina has a long-standing reputation for taking all the key cars from BMW's line-up and tweaking them in special ways.

With the B4 Biturbo, the German tuning company has brought in a BMW 435i convertible, taken away the standard car's single turbocharger and replaced it with two instead. That results in a car which produces an amount of power within striking distance of a BMW M4 Cabrio but with more torque too.

Of course, the car also gets Alpina's styling tweaks. There's the standard 20-inch multi spoke alloy wheels and aerodynamic kit. There's also a rather nice four-pipe Akropovic exhaust system at the back, to let you know that this isn't any old BMW convertible.

Alpinas have always been able to manage the look of a car that is understated, but shows sporting intent too. The B4 Biturbo convertible continues this. There's the previously mentioned bodykit, which includes a front splitter. You'll also find Alpina pin striping along the flanks of the car. This may not be to everyone's taste, but in our eyes, it looks fantastic. The large multi-spoke wheels finish the exterior look, and a ducktail spoiler at the rear looks the part too.

Inside, it'll be familiar to anyone who has seen or driven a current-generation 3 Series. BMW's excellent infotainment system remains, controlled by the i-drive rotary selector. There are, of course, certain elements of the interior that have been tweaked by Alpina. The steering wheel, for instance, is thin and trimmed in alcantara, rather than the much thicker BMW M-Sport one.

There's a leather-trimmed dash too, though on our test car, this was a hefty £1,075 option. Blue and green stitching is used throughout the cabin, while a numbered metal plaque makes you fully aware – if you weren't already – that you're driving something a little bit special.

Legroom

Despite having seating for four, the B4 is not a fully-fledged four-seater, rather a 2+2. The rear seats would be fine for children, but adults are going to find it a bit of a squeeze.

Up front, however, there's plenty of room. Legroom is decent and there's plenty of space for bottles and other items. Two large cup holders are useful, especially on hot days with the roof down. However, that roof does affect practicality. If you fold it away, you have to lower the luggage cover in the boot, heavily compromising space. It's a small thing, but users looking to lower the roof often may find it annoying.

Make no question about it, the B4 Biturbo is quick. Putting out 410bhp and 600Nm torque, it can reach 62mph in 4.5 seconds and goes on to 187mph. However, the car's approach to those figures isn't as aggressive as you might think. Powered through an eight-speed ZF auto the Alpina wafts up to speed in a more relaxing fashion than the bodykit would allow you to imagine. That exhaust isn't intrusive, giving a lovely, mechanical note under heavy acceleration.

Alpina makes sure to thoroughly change the suspension on any car it makes, and the B4 is no different. The wheels, though wearing 245/30 section tyres, bear no impact on the car's ride. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a car that deals better with bumps in the road one. It is firm without jarring, which is just what you want in a convertible. This is bettered by placing the car in comfort mode. Up and running, the B4 is easy to drive quickly, with the vast amount of torque on offer making change of pace quick and effortless. It also means it is relaxing to drive on the motorway too.

The B4's steering is also excellent, helped no doubt by the thin-rimmed wheel. Alpina still curiously chooses to use buttons mounted behind the wheel rather than paddle shifters, which is one thing we'd change. That ZF gearbox still provides excellent shifts time after time, though. One annoyance was the start-stop system, which had a habit of cutting in incredibly early, and then starting again with a jolt.

Prices start at £62,950. Our test car, fitted with options such as adaptive headlights and Merino leather, came in at £72,010. Make no mistake, this Alpina is not cheap. For that money though, you get a level of subtleness that is hard to describe. Given the performance available, the car's price makes sense. When you also take into account the bespoke nature of the car's suspension and powertrain, as well as the interior, then it begins to look like good value.

If you're looking to stand out from the crowd, the Alpina perhaps isn't the best choice. If, however, you fancy driving a car that has understated presence hiding a vast amount of performance, the B4 Biturbo may well be for you.

TESTED

Model: Alpina B4 Biturbo (£62,950 base)
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Single Women

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TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's you pls call, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

SUSAN, 43, pretty green eyed brunette looking for an interesting attractive man who would understand my wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424381**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363**

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTM gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261**

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424045**

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424337**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA. I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424335**

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curvy lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 424385**

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253**

JANETTE 38 yrs black married lady looking for no strings fun with white man, any age. **Box 4008771**

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTM chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424333**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424331**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 57, widow, likes dining out, country pubs, good conversation and laughter, seeks genuine professional gent, with a gosh with similar interests, to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424157**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424231**

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101**

LOUISE, 39, tactile good-looking solvent female WLTM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055**

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on, lets share all the good things life has to offer together! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085**

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021**

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529**

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051**

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57,,attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignations. **Text only Mailbox: 5546538**

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for genuine male with gosh, for friendship. Walsall area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424025**

VERY attractive intelligent blonde, 59, WLTM tall attractive solvent man. No Tattoos. South Yorks. **Text only Mailbox: 5430085**

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827**

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015**

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single man. **Text only Mailbox: 5535192**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTM action man of any age for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423899**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

LINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879**

SUSAN divorced female 44, OHAC, no ties, loves to keep fit and look good, WLTM mature guy to fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423849**

DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seeks similar male to help liven up weekends and make her laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423883**

Single Men

TALL, 63-year-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

IAN, GSOH, 60, looking for somebody to go out with and have a good time, a good laugh, maybe things will move on, I'm young at heart so looking for younger female if possible, NSA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424357**

ITALIAN male, 46, from Oldbury, seeking female, 30-50, for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424371**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, looking for genuine lady, 50-55, to share the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424353**

TIM, young at heart, intelligent, fun loving, spontaneous, GSOH, WLTM a lady with a GSOH, for friendship and possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424395**

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. **Text only Mailbox: 5561456**

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325**

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789**

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893**

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. **Text only Mailbox: 4362854**

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991**

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, OHAC, solvent, so get back if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027**

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131**

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067**

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363**

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177**

MALE 43 slim, non-smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. **Text only Mailbox: 5543476**

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454**

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997**

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909**

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Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CENTRA HEAT

IT WORKS FOR ME
We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.
Martin - Centra Heat
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

SJH PLUMBING AND HEATING Gas safe reg, all plumbing & central heating undertaken, Call for free quote: 07855 020552

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single Items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

roofing

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

Arrow Roofing & Guttering
Pitched roofing & lead work.
Flat roofing, rubber & felt.
All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in October. *T&C apply*
01902 845211

A1 ROOFING
main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm.
01902 722447.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!
It definitely works for us!
Grinsells Skip Hire.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

tree services

S T TREE SERVICES All tree work carried out Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite or chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Estimates: 01902 404698.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ADORAL AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel puppy, 4 months old, KC reg, vaccinated, chipped, very playful and loving, parents can be seen, £395. 07974 749908.

KITTENS X2 Female, tortoishell, eight weeks, litter trained, £30 each. 07734 208600.

TWO BLACK KITTENS Brother and Sister, 8 weeks old. to a loving home. £80 pair.
07754 008263.

TWO KITTENS black and white male, £25 each to good homes. 01902 218944.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

TANNING SALON and beauty room, immediate lease available, Gornal High Street, Dudley. No lease free just rent of £650pcm. 07852 225618.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
30 yrs
0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

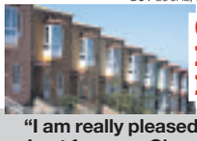
ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Any Property Wanted
PROUDLY REGULATED BY:
100% Price Promise
✓ GENUINE CASH BUYERS
✓ ANY CONDITION
✓ FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
✓ NO COSTS TO YOU
✓ COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
A BLACK COUNTRY COMPANY RUN BY WOMEN!
0800 634 7059 24/7
or 0121 487 0300
www.anypropertywanted.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

accommodation to let

A 1/2 BEDROOM FLAT to let Chapel Ash, Finchfield, Wednesfield. ORP. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

GROUND FLOOR 1 bed flat, very modern, Oxley area. Working person. £99.50p/w. 01902 238770.

HIGH QUALITY Furnished 1 bed flat,Tettenhall area. No DSS 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

THREE BEDROOMED, 2 bathroom, nice kitchen, off Goldthorn Hill, £650pcm. No DSS. 07886 781724.

mobile homes

MUST BE SEEN
TINGDENE FULLY RESIDENTIAL
50 x 20 NEW DOUBLE UNIT PARK HOME.
Two bedrooms.
One en-suite.
Private gardens and parking.
Sited in Telford area.
Call for full details.
07810 044813 / 07801 530894.

7 Jobs

drivers

CLASS 2 HGV & STEEL EXPERIENCE required. Call Rob Pitchford on 07732 924744.

PICK UP / 7.5 TONNE DRIVER required £7.50 p.h. £11.25 after 40 hrs. Ocassional nights out. CV to slawtransport@yahoo.co.uk

motor trade

MANUAL/COMMERCIAL GEARBOX BUILDER (Salary depending on experience) Must be experienced in all areas of refurbishing. Varied variety of gearboxes to build to high standard. Based in Birmingham. Please send your CV to trudy@power transmissions.uk.com or Tel: 0121 773 9931

full time - general

Experienced Sales Order Processor
Salary based on experience
Permanent
Administrator / Sales Order Processor
Kingswinford, Dudley.
Full time, temp - perm
We are currently recruiting for an experienced Administrator/Sales Order processor for our kitchen design manufacturing company based in Kingswinford.
You will be responsible for processing and inputting all sales orders, producing all despatch paperwork for sales orders along with O&M manuals, liaising with the warehouse and suppliers to ensure orders are received in the allotted time, answering telephone calls and any other administrative duties that are required.
The successful candidate will have good organisational skills and be a confident user of Sage 50 and Excel. You will be an enthusiastic team player who is able to work independently or as part of a team. High attention to detail is required for this role as well as strong communication skills.
If you feel you have the right skill set please forward your CV for the attention of Kristin Jones to email:kristinjones@franciscatering.com.

FLIGHT CASE PHOTO BOOTH ASSEMBLER
Building flight cases and making them into Photo Booths for customers
We are looking for a determined individual who is able to keep up with the popular demand and meet weekly targets.
Minimum wage plus bonuses Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
All CV's must be emailed to claire@photobooth.co.uk

industrial & technical

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER/ DESIGN ENGINEER Person required to join a medium sized structural steel business in Dudley, to design all types of steelwork for contracts and fenders. Fully qualified and experienced person preferred but may consider part trained or graduate. Ideally with experience in connection design. Salary negotiable depending on experience. For further details please contact Stuart at Structural Steelwork Ltd on 01384 258400

part time - general

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR AN AREA MANAGER
Are you well organised , motivated, confident, calm under pressure, good with people and a natural leader? Are you customer focused, enjoy managing people and have great communication skills?
If so, we have the job for you! ServiceMaster is a local facilities company with a friendly, welcoming environment. Due to expansion we have a new and exciting vacancy for a 25hr part time field based Area Manager covering the Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Worcester area.
A good salary of £15,860, Fully expensed vehicle provided as well as training, phone, ipad and bonus scheme,
Full driving licence is essential.
Apply by email including your CV to de@contractservicesww.co.uk

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

WORKING TOGETHER
Creating Community Chances in Bilston East, Darlaston South, Princes End and St Thomas's
Free training
Advice and guidance
Mentoring
Community events
Volunteering
Placements
Job matching

Forthcoming Events

Darlaston South
19th October — Health Event
25th October — Bat Walk
17th November — 1940's Day
Bilston
17th October — End World Poverty
28th October — International Day
11th November — Jobs Fair
For these Events Call Sarah Richards on 07713 313240
Princes End
14th December — Christmas Fair
St Thomas's
23rd November — Christmas Pantomine
For these Events Call Dawn Bodley on 07977 426586

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A1
1.6TDi, SE SPORTSBACK
5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.
£9,750 ono.
07916 252817.

CONVERTIBLE
AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE
2.5 TDi
04, long MoT, Mint Blue,
all electric, grey leather interior, excellent condition.
£2,450 ono.
07948 146611.

7 SEATER
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO
VTR HDi SE DIESEL
09 reg, 0.6cc, red, ten months MoT, automatic, 7 seater, fridge, CD player, 67,000 miles, very good condition,
£3,800 ono.
0121 5251157.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
FORD FIESTA CLIMATE
2009. 5 door.
Diesel. Silver.
Mot May 2017.
28,800 miles.
Excellent condition.
ABS. Immobiliser. Radio. CD.
£2,800.
01902 880806.

LOW MILEAGE
FORD FIESTA ST2
Black, 2013 plate, MoT till April 1 2017, full service and MoT, 1 owner from new, security tracker, 2 new back tyres, 7,400 miles, good condition.
£13,400 ono.
07780 001797.

SHOWROOM CONDITION
FORD FIESTA ZETEC
1.2cc, petrol, 3dr, 58 plate, 19,000 miles fsh, red, tinted windows, sensorrs, 12 months MoT, showroom condition,
£4,400 ono.
01902 765739.

7 SEATER
FORD GALAXY GHIA LUXURY
2004, 1.9 TDCi, metallic blue, full leather, top spec plus more, MoT, service history, CD, new tyres, clutch, dual-mass flywheel, cam belt and service ready to go. Not usual rubbish. Private car.
£3,450 o.n.o.
07971 284856/01746 861841.

KIA PICANTO 2
2010. High miles 82,000. Perfect engine.
No damage or rust.
12 months MoT.
Extras phone for details.
Must be seen.
£2,850.
07905 092643.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY
MAZDA 3
55 reg, 5-dr hatchback, red, black interior, alloy wheels, sports pack, radio / CD player, EW, EM, AC, MoT till Feb 2017.
Reliable car.
£2,490.
01384 401209.

PRESTIGE
MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE
54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys,
Absolutely pristine.
£9,999.
07836 204450.
deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

ECONOMICAL
NISSAN MICRA TENKA
2013, 5-dr, 1.2, 18,000 miles.
Mot May 2017, FSH.
Remote central locking.
Electric windows, air con.
Panoramic roof, sat nav, etc.
£30 road tax.
£5,000.
07910 942090.
Kidderminster.

LOOK
PEUGEOT 107
2013, 18,000 miles, purple, top spec.
£3,600.
01902 634410.

DIESEL
VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi 16v SRi
12 plate, silver, 87,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, 5Dr hatchback.
10 months MoT.
Recently purchased.
Lovely car but too big for me.
Excellent condition.
£6,995.
Sorry no offers.
01902 895481.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
PEUGEOT 107 URBAN
2009, 5-dr hatchback, Long MoT.
Electric windows.
Central locking.
Immaculate condition.
£20pa tax.
£1,850 ono.
07842 367128

TOYOTA CELICA SR
1998, 43,800 miles, one owner, long MoT, service history, silver, electric windows and mirrors, aircon, alarm, alloys, central locking, radio cassette CD,
£2,000 o.n.o
07932 276235

VAUXHALL MERIVA EXCLUSIV
11, 17,500 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, 1.4 petrol, air con, excellent condition inside and out.
£4,995 ono.
07742 943997.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BARGAIN
FIAT PUNTO 1.2
05 reg, low milesgae.
CD player, alloys, MoT.
Electric windows.
Good condition.
£595.
Telephone 07754 557861.

FORD KA
2001, 1.3, MoT, low mileage.
59,000 from new, PAS.
CD player.
Economical to run,
£325 ono.
07434 656795.

FORD KA ZETEC
2008, 49,100 Miles, MOT till March 2017, privacy windows. Family owned from new. Very good condition and super reliable. Ideal first car
£1,200
07850 843166

FORD KA
2008
MoT history, 56,000 genuine miles, drives, looks great,
EW, PAS, CL,
£995.
07449 431723.

BARGAIN

JAGUAR X-TYPE

2.0 V6 SE

Petrol, manual, 2003, dark blue colour, pale leather, two owners, 74,000 miles, new MoT, emissions perfect lovely,

£950.

SOLD

LOOK

MERCEDES KOMPRESSER

2003, blue. MoT Feb 2017.

low milage.

£1,300 ono

07450 189 193

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSER

2003, blue.

£1,300 ono.

07450 189193.

RENAULT CLIO 1.4L

2005, 61,000 Miles, Silver, MOT September 2017, alloy wheels, electric windows, central locking, great condition, ideal first car.

£925 ono

07713162404

RENAULT CLIO 1.2

TCE Dynamique,

petrol, manual, 5 doors, 2007. Grey, MoT December 2016,

57,915 miles,

£1,500.

07801 790846.

RENAULT CLIO

PRIVILEGE

1.4 5dr, 2003, silver, MoT September 17, 67,000 miles, FSH, air con, EW, remote C/L, CD radio, PAS, superb, needs to be seen.

£795.

07939 498854.

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT SCENIC FIDJI

2003, 1.6, 48,000 miles, manual, petrol, 2 keys, remote central locking, air con, electric windows, MoT August 2017, FSH, cam belt replaced,

£925.

07910 942090.

Kidderminster.

RENAULT SCENIC PRVILEDGE DCi 120

Diesel, green, 53 reg, High spec, low miles, serviced regular, good condition. Must be seen.

£675.

07476 309451.

DIESEL

ROVER 75 TOURER

2.0 diesel, 127k miles, long MoT, tow bar, may need battery.

£350 ono.

07754 121452.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VAUXHALL CORSA

1.2 DESIGN

16v, 2004, manual, blue, petrol, 3dr, genuine sale,

£1,100.

07787 547577.

FOR A QUICK SALE

VAUXHALL CORSA SRi

5-dr hatchback, 1800, petrol, 2003, black, MoT till March 2017, alloy wheels, alarmed, high mileage but engine, gearbox, body very good.

Nice looking car and very good drive.

Quick sale only £595 ono.

01902 262001. 07928 679949.

BMA Est. Here 25 Years

2003 Peugeot 206 Look 1.1

2-dr hatch, metallic silver, alloys, A/C. MoT June 2017. Exceptionally clean. **£895**

A wide range of quality cars for under £1500

OPEN EVERY DAY

07956 988517

Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

classic cars

LOOK

MG MIDGET

1972, mint condition.
MoT'd, bronze yellow.
No modifications.
This car must be seen hence price

£6,000 o.n.o.
07906 313295.
No texts please.
Kingswinford area.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN VANS small / medium / large £995-£5995 inc vat 12mth MoT 01902 451877 / 07944 640999

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapest in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

BRYAN RONALD ROBERTS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Netherton Green Residential Home Bowling Green Road Netherton Dudley West Midlands DY2 9LY, who died on 04/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 23/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
ALISTER PILLING SOLICITORS
45 Cross Street Camborne
Cornwall TR14 8ET T484231

NIGEL KEITH CARTWRIGHT Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 2 Woodfield Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 2ES, who died on 05/08/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undermentioned on or before 14/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
mfg Solicitors LLP,
Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 2SH

MICHAEL GEOFFREY DEANS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 29 Market Street Kingswinford DY6 9JS and Unit 3 Oakdale Trading Estate, Ham Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7JH, who died on 02/08/2016 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 14/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Chorus Law as Attorney for the Personal Representative, Heron House, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX

SANDRA ELIZABETH PARDOE (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Flat 1 Newbury House Arley Close Oldbury West Midlands B69 1EB, who died on 06/07/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 23/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LIMITED
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY T484494

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (West Midlands) (No.27) Order 2016" authorising the stopping up of a length of Cyprus Street at Oldbury, in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell to enable development as permitted by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council under reference DC/15/58854.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/WM/S247/2135) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Jack Judge House, 10 Halesowen Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 2AJ.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 13 October 2016 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

G Patrick, Casework Manager

10 Personals

general

I AM LOOKING FOR MY SON
Mr A. Lewis.
Last seen Wolverhampton.
Please get in touch.
Box Number P20568,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

I.T. HOME TUTOR REQUIRED

Retired company director in Newbridge urgently seeks patient and sympathetic 'tutor' to help him master basic desktop computer skills.

Would suit bright student or part-time worker.

Two x 1 hour session per week. £10 per hour.

CV only to

michael.windridge@talk21.com

personal

ATTRACTIVE, lonely Female seeking, broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489181.

LADY 59
Christmas is coming and it would be nice to spend it with a nice genuine man, for nights in / out.
Tall, medium build.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P20572,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
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Bob and Kevin, with, back, Cameron Darby, Dilson Santos, coach Gary Tomlinson, Ellis Clifton and Ashton Jay Pugh

Ellis Clifton is put through his paces at Lions Boxing Club by coach Kev Dillon

Bob Dillon has been helping GB to success at Olympic Games

Pride of Lions Bob helps GB to roar at Olympics

A BLACK COUNTRY voice has been helping Team GB's boxers reach the gold standard for quite some time and it was no different during Rio 2016.

Dudley's Bob Dillon serves as the GB squad's lead podium potential coach and worked with the boxers again this year. He cut short his trip to return home for an open day at the gym he founded, Lions Boxing Club in Brierley Hill, and to join his wife Julie for her 60th birthday celebrations.

In Rio, Joshua Buatsi secured GB's first boxing medal, a bronze, after a points defeat to Kazakhstan's Adilbek Niyazymbetov.

Joe Joyce followed with a silver in the super heavyweight category and Nicola Adams become a double gold medalist after repeating her triumph from London 2012.

With GB reaching its target of leaving Brazil with three medals, Dillon can take his share of the credit.

Buatsi, Joyce and Adams all came through his boxing programme, as did most of their immediate predecessors who starred at the Olympics.

Champion

He's close to Anthony Joshua, who turned pro to become a world champion after going all of the way at London 2012. He also worked Luke Campbell, who won gold and then turned over to the pro ranks.

James DeGale, who went to Beijing 2008, was another protege who joined the paid game, and went on to become the first British Olympic gold medallist to win a world boxing title.

Dillon, aged 59, is now back full time at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. New prospects need to be brought into the system and prepared for the European and World Championships, with the long-term focus towards Tokyo 2020. "We've pretty much operated with the thinking of those that medal will turn pro. It's rare that doesn't come to pass," he said.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Brich

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport."

"Then you've got those that we believed would do very well in the Olympics and haven't, for whatever reason. Sometimes, it's just down to being on the wrong side of a bad decision.

"We've got to pick them up and bring them on again so, hopefully, they get it right next time. You only get so many chances.

"It's my job to help bring through young boxers and that's where a lot of our attention will be going.

"We look at some youth boxers, so our age range is 17-18 up to about 40, which is the senior limit. Audley Harrison was 29 when he went to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport. Coming here doesn't suit everybody, but it's what you need to do to get to the top."

Dillon is a three-star AIBA boxing coach and has been employed full-time at the EIS for six years, having previously worked part-time for GB since 1999.

One Black Country cohort now on the fighting team is Darlaston's Benjamin Whittaker, 19, who was picked for the podium squad in May.

None of Dillon's fighters at club level have ever represented GB, despite the Lions alumni containing a host of national champions and internationals.

Andrew Price, James Price, Luke Richards, Ricky Summers and Connor Jones all featured for England, but no further. Dillon still rates Jones and the late Thomas Hickinbottom – who tragically died aged 14 in 2003 after a freak road accident – among the most talented boxers he's seen first-hand.

He speaks from a lifetime of experience in the game which started when he was 11, at Kinver and then Warley Boxing Club.

He later became head coach for Warley before starting Lions in 2000, which continues to be a family-run establishment.

Corner

Julie is treasurer and also an accredited judge while son Kevin, 32, is a trainer. Then there's the imposing figure of head coach John Shakespeare, who reached a national final himself boxing for Warley in the 1987 senior ABA competition.

Dillon can still work the corner at club level and does so for Lions members when his obligations allow. He gave a speech at the open day about what it takes to succeed in all areas of boxing.

He said: "Since the start of 2015, I've been to 18 different countries with my job and I wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been away with work a lot and it's vital I've had the support of family. I'll be having a go at Tokyo and carrying on for as long as my heart is in it.

"You haven't got to be fight to be a part of something in this sport. You can contribute in so many different ways. At the club, most of the experienced boxers are also coaching and bringing the lads on.

"Sticking together is the way to succeed."

Sport

Coach Bob packs punch to help boxers make podium

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Visitors are gifted points by Glassboys

Stourbridge 0 Sutton Coldfield 1

OFF-COLOUR Stourbridge paid the price for a calamitous error followed by a lack of composure in the final third as they lost 1-0 at home to Sutton Coldfield on Monday night.

The Glassboys gifted Sutton the lead in first-half stoppage time when a short free-kick on the halfway line was played short between experienced duo Stuart Pierpoint and Leon Broadhurst.

Sutton's Stephen Palmer harassed his opponents and keeper Matt Gould horribly sliced the back pass under continued pressure with Danny O'Callaghan finding the empty net.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men when James Beresford was sent off for a second cynical foul on Matt Dodd five minutes into the second half.

It was all one-way traffic after that, but, despite having all of the ball, the disjointed hosts rarely troubled goalkeeper James Wren.

Marine 1 Stourbridge 1

BOSS Gary Hackett blasted the performance of referee Alan Bennett after watching Stourbridge rescue a 1-1 draw at Marine on Saturday.

The Glassboys had to wait until stoppage time to plunder a share of the spoils at the Marine Travel Arena.

Brandon Hague's header from a Justin Richards cross cancelled out a controversial fourth-minute penalty netted by Kurt Sherlock, awarded after Tom Tonks was deemed to have pulled down Michael Mongahan

And Hackett said: "Marine benefited from a debatable penalty and unfortunately, we ended up talking about the referee a lot.

"That was one of the worst decisions and performances I have seen in many a year.

As much as I moan during games, it is not often that I criticise officials but this one certainly warranted it in my opinion.

"Sometimes, referees make incorrect decisions but still control things with authority but he got it wrong on both fronts. I don't like being critical but I felt it was justified on this occasion.

"It wasn't a case of being biased against us, he was just a poor ref for both teams and they felt exactly the same."

BCT Charlesworth in Ironman debut

AS the autumn weather starts so does the Duathlon season Black Country Triathlete Scott Palmer took his trainers and bike to Cheshire to compete in the Oulton Park Duathlon.

He came home 10th in his age group in 1:08:06 for a 4.3km run, a 21.6km bike and another 4.3km run round the race track.

Still making the most of the warmer weather in southern Europe, Rob Charlesworth completed his first long distance race becoming an Ironman for the first time in Mallorca.

Charlesworth completed the 2.4-mile swim in 1:24, the 112-mile bike ride in 7:16 and the 26.2-mile run in 4:41 giving him an overall time of 13:41:22.

He said that while not thinking about all the training required at the moment, he is looking forward to taking on this distance race again soon.

Yeltz squander two-goal advantage

Kennedy Digie in action for Halesowen Town

Halesowen Town 2 Ashton Utd 2

YELTZ boss John Hill didn't really need to say anything post-match – the look on his face was enough.

An unlikely comeback, which saw visitors Ashton United wipe out a two-goal advantage in the final 15 minutes, left Hill once again cursing his team's concerning habit for letting a lead slip.

"At 2-0 up, that game was won," he said. "We were not under any serious threat and we should have seen it out comfortably. Now, somehow, we are sat here with only a point."

Frustratingly for Hill, this was third time in the space of as many weeks his team have surrendered a lead and the second occasion they have squandered a two-goal advantage.

The Yeltz took the lead with the only effort on target of the opening period, former Telford midfielder Jordan Goddard poking home. When Kaiman Anderson doubled the advantage seven minutes after the break the game looked over.

With 15 minutes left, Lee Knight pulled one back and with the clock about to tick into stoppage time, Lee Gaskell turned home substitute Jody Banim's cross.

DK SCORE NINE TRIES IN ROMP

DK 53 Crewe & Nantwich 12

DK came back strongly from defeat at Burton to beat a team who had done the double over them last season.

Team selection was disrupted with players injured during training in the week, so changes were made. But those given the opportunity stepped up to the mark.

Within the opening 10 minutes, DK had put their mark on the game, but the score remained blank as George Ingram missed two long range penalties.

DK ran in nine tries and C&N replied with two of their own.

The first try came from a snipe at the scrum from number 9 Tommy Walker, who broke the defensive line, the ball was then transferred to left wing Liam Marshall, who impressively finished the move with a good run to the line, Ingram added the extras.

Intervals

C&N hit back with a try which came from DK not dealing with a kick ahead. Danny Hawkins touched down for DK's second effort and Dave Pitt scored the third for a 17-5 lead.

The second half saw DK build up their lead at regular intervals. The bonus point try came courtesy of Hawkins, Ingram converted.

Second row Joe Francis touched down for try number five, again converted by Ingram, who added a try of his own for number six.

Luke Greenwood benefited from a Stef Shillingford break to make it 41-5 and fly half Connah Jones rounded off a fine display for the eighth try.

Into the dying minutes, DK were becoming adventurous and C&N were able to claim a second try, which was converted.

DK were not done, however, and Will Brown, who had come on at scrum half, scored the final try and converted it himself.

The win saw DK move up five places in the league. They are at home to Newport this weekend in the North Mids Cup.

Stourbridge entertained Harrogate and won 18-12.

Stefan Shillingford in typically menacing mood as Dudley Kingswinford take on Crewe & Nantwich

Businesswomen tee off for golf day

WEST Midlands Law firm Higgs & Sons chipped in to host a golf day, the culmination of a series of driving range and practice sessions for complete novices.

The 12 businesswomen enjoyed nine holes at Hagley Golf & Country Club and the event was hailed a success by all those taking part.

This is the second year running that Higgs has organised the six sessions and hosted the event.

Those taking part were: From Higgs & Sons, Kirsty McEwen, Lucy Obrey, Nyree Applegarth, Carole Maddock and Clare Langford; Kate Jones and Laura Healey from David Cutter & Co Chartered Accountants; April Pearson-Myatt of DRP Group Ltd; Jo-Anne Till of GT Access Ltd; Lisa Winters of Handelsbanken; Lesley Wilde of Wild Thing Ltd and Rachel Tucker.

Heathens miss out on play-off final

CRADLEY failed to haul back a 16-point deficit as rivals Birmingham progressed to the National League play-off final.

The Surestop Brummies claimed a 47-43 second leg win at Monmore Green on Monday night, securing a 20 point aggregate success for their 18th consecutive victory in all competitions.

The Perry Barr outfit knew they had done the majority of the hard work in last Wednesday's first leg, but were keen to beat their Midland rivals on their own shale for the second time this season.

With Cradley renowned for coming on strong in the latter stages of the meeting, the Brummies knew getting off to a good start was imperative.

A trio of 5-1s in the opening six races helped them to build a 10-point lead on the night with six heats remaining.

Heathens did once again claim maximum advantages of their own in heats 13 and 15, but a 5-1 from Tom Bacon and Jack Smith in the penultimate race was enough for the Brummies.

Tom Bacon top scored for the Brummies, taking the chequered flag in two of Birmingham's four 5-1s and kept home duo Ashley Morris and Max Clegg well and truly on their toes in heat 15.

Jack Smith was instrumental at reserve as he dropped just two points to a Cradley rider and held off British Under-19 Champion Max Clegg to secure a 5-1 with Tom Perry in heat six.

Tom Perry and Darryl Ritchings both enjoyed steady evenings against their former club while Lee Geary got the better of Cradley reserve Bradley Andrews at No.8.

CRADLEY 43: Ashley Morris 15, Max Clegg 11+2, Ben Hopwood 8, Joe Lawlor 3+1, Richard Andrews 3, Bradley Andrews 2+1, Ben Basford (no.8) 1, James Purchase R/R.

BIRMINGHAM 47: Tom Bacon 11, Jack Smith 10+3, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 7+3, Danny Ayres 7, Tom Perry 6+1, Darryl Ritchings 5+2, Lee Geary (no.8) 1, Danyon Hume R/R.

Youngster Tais down rivals for a bronze

A DUDLEY youngster claimed bronze in an international martial arts contest.

Tai Bowen, from Lower Gornal, started training in karate at the age of four, at the Central England Wado Ryu Karate Academy (CEWKA) in Wolverhampton.

Following the training and guidance of Sensei Stennett Harvey, Tai has developed to a level where he could competed at regional and national competitions. Aged eight, he was the youngest member of the CEWKA squad to compete in Berlin at the Banzai International Cup and achieved third place in the Under 10 Male Kata category.

★★★

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